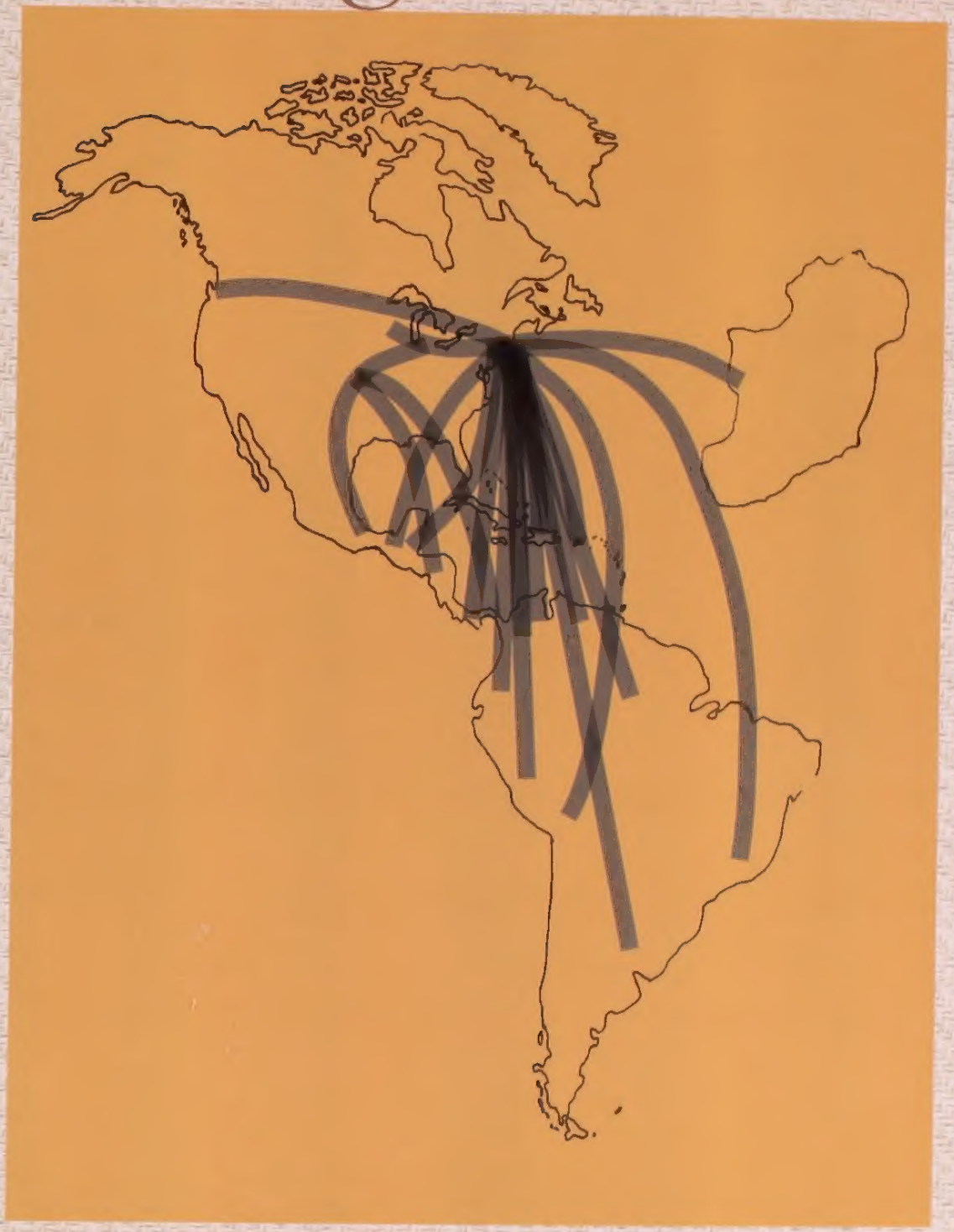
Migrations



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Like the sand hill cranes that breed near his Wisconsin home, Michael Nee has spent his adult life migrating north to south and back.

This book is presented to Michael Nee, friend, colleague, travel companion, tour guide, mentor and teacher by (contributors in alphabetical order):

Tom Andres
Chiqui Arroyo
Daniel Atha
Mike Balick
Lynn Bohs
Brian Boom
Teresa Centurion
Ted Cochrane
Tom Croat
George Diggs
Andrew Henderson
Steve Hill
Tim Killeen
Sandy Knapp
Ron Liesner
Donald McClelland
Harriet Nee-Meerman
Carol Mickel
John Mickel
Moises Mendoza
Robbin Moran
Scott Mori
Rainer Muser
Jane Nee
Amanda Neill
Harry Paris
Mario Saldias
Daniel Villarroel Segarra
Michael Sundue
Marisol Toledo
Jun Wen
Donna Ford-Werntz

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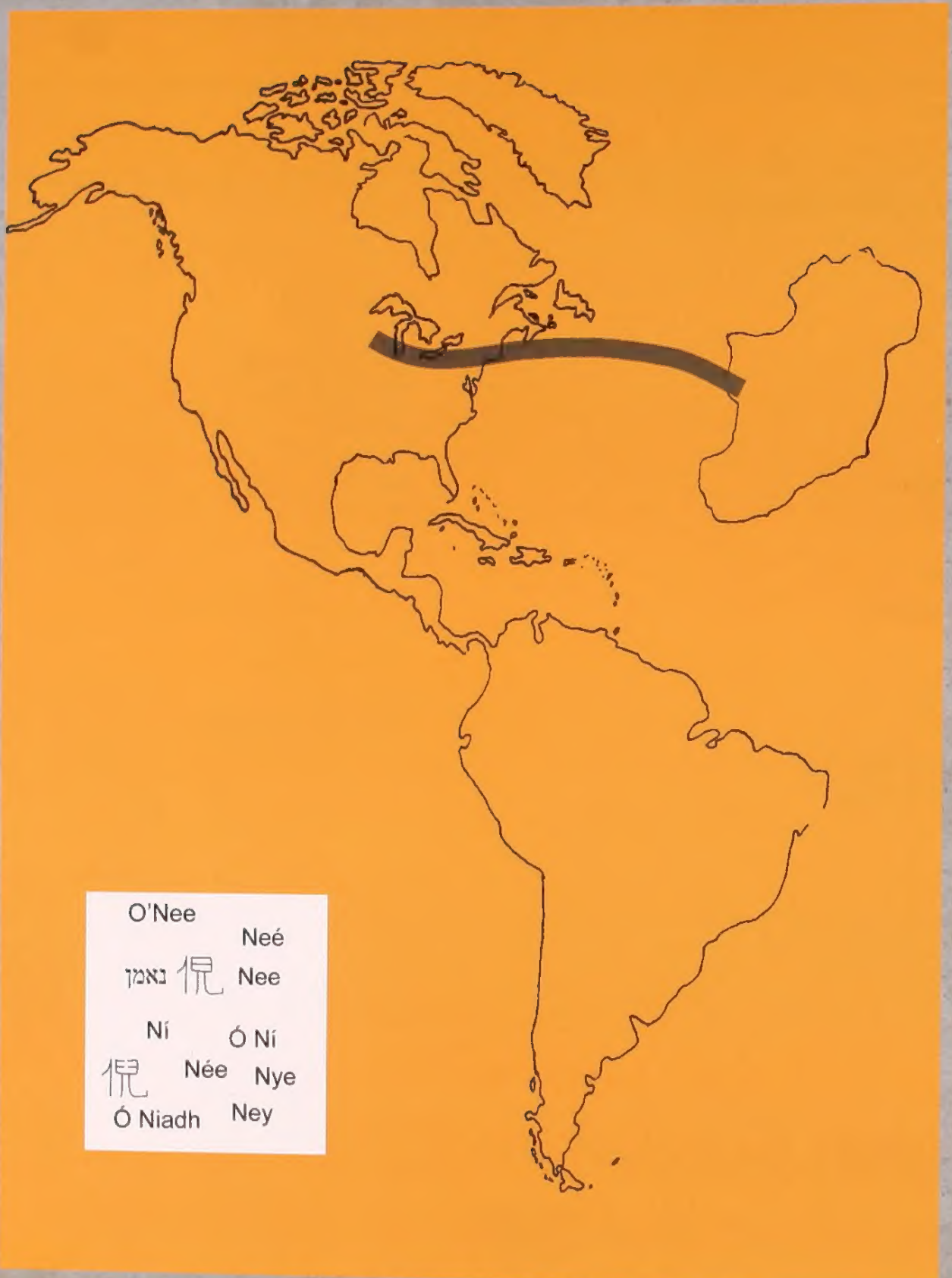
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Nye
Ó Niadh
Ney

History

The Séipéal Naomh Briocáin or St. Brickan's Church in Rosmuc, Connemara, Co. Galway, Ireland, was built in 1844, when churches and baptism and marriage records were again allowed for the Catholic population, over 95% of the people of Co. Galway. Coleman and Julia Hanrihan Nee's first child, Thomas, was born 8 Dec. 1844, although his baptism is not on record. His sister Judith or Julia was born 10 Dec. 1845, and her baptism is recorded. We have no further records for this little girl.

Coleman and Julia Hanrihan Nee's family were:

Thomas Coleman Nee (b. 8 Dec. 1844 in Co. Galway; d. 21 June 1905 in Richland Center, Richland Co., Wisconsin) married Mary Joyce, probably from Headford, Co. Galway, where her parents, John and Anna Bann Joyce, were from. Thomas had a large family, many of them associated with Richland County, Wisc.

James Coleman Nee (b. 14 May 1848, perhaps in Rosmuc; d. 1911). I don't know his wife's name; this family moved to Monroe, Green County, Wisc. I have little information on most of them, except, of course for his grandson James Kundert Nee (b. 1913), who moved back to Richland Center, but then back to Brodhead, Green County, with his wife, Leona Pepper Nee.

Anthony Nee (b. July, 1852 in Fulton, Oswego Co., New York; d. 1933) married Ella Joyce, another daughter of John and Anna Bann Joyce. They lived in Richland County, as do many of their numerous descendants.

John Nee (b. 21 April 1854, Fulton, Oswego Co., New York; d. 12 June 1927 in Richland Co., Wisc.) married Mary "Maime" Walsh, daughter of Martin and Catherine Joyce Walsh; none of their descendants still live in Richland County.

Michael Nee (b. Sept. 1858 in New York State; d. 1936) married 1) Margaret L. "Maggie" Walsh, also a daughter of Martin and Catherine Joyce Walsh, and 2) Elizabeth "Lizzie" Walsh. The only child I have information on is Hazel Nee who married Harry Koepp and lived in Waukesha County, Wisc.

William Nee (b. 1861 in Wisconsin) is on the 1870 federal census. He evidently is sometimes also called Leo. It is said he "went out West and was never heard from again". However, I believe Lorraine Nee (1915-1998) told me in 1997 that someone from his family did come back and visit years ago. This will be the **Question Corner** for this issue.

l. to r., front row: James Coleman Nee, Coleman Nee (b. 15 June 1811, Co. Galway, Ireland; d. 29 July 1895, Richland Center, , Wisc.), Thomas Coleman Nee.
back row: Anthony Nee, John Nee, Michael Nee, William Nee

Does anybody know anything about William "Leo" Nee?

This is a family story told many times. When Michael was old enough to go into the local dime store with money of his own, he bought himself a plant. He was probably 5 or 6 years old. Now the rest of his siblings, including myself, probably bought candy or comic books. (In those days we had alot more freedom and in a small town and could walk around on our own). He knew from a very early age what he wanted to study.

Another family story is that he taught himself the alphabet backwards before he was two years old. When he had exhausted the curriculum at our local country school (grades 1-8) my parents bought him records to teach himself German. We had a wonderful teacher at our school who supported this endeavor in the school. Michael always had a thirst for knowledge and to this day is always exploring and learning.

Harriet Nee Meerman

Photo:
Harriet
Nee
Meerman

A few more items regarding Michael.

He was valadictorian of the Richland Center High School.

He was recognized several years ago during the Homecoming Weekend as an Outstanding Alumni.

Michael has been a generous Great- Uncle to his Great Nephew, Grant Meermann. Grant was diagnosed at age 3 with duchenne muscular dystrophy. This is a fatal muscle wasting disease. Much research and clinical trials are underway to cure or provide better treatments for duchenne. Michael has been a generous donor to our Family Foundation,SaveOurBoy.org. This foundation raises money for duchenne research. Grant is now six years old and our hope is that there will soon be a cure for this devastating diagnosis. Michael Nee is a strong supporter of this cause.

Harriet Nee Meerman

When I was 5 and Michael was 7, there was a new barn being built on our farm (circa 1955). We thoroughly enjoyed running through the ditches that were built, that would be the outer area of the barn. A lot of lumber had been gathered for the building; and, was piled near the old barn. Michael and I jumped off it a lot---and, in the process he broke his arm. Due to this he had a sling and cast on that arm and was not able to move it. When the final concrete for the floor was being poured, out of the mass, came an arm looking for a life saver. Had not someone pulled Michael out of the morass (into which he had fallen), you would never have known him---it would have been a predecessor to Jimmy Hoffa. With one arm disabled, he was going under fast.

Jane Nee

My trip with Michael Nee

On January 26, 1971 Mike Nee and I departed on a trip to make observations and collect species of Gustavia (Lecythidaceae) as part of my Ph.D. program under the direction of Hugh H. Iltis, also the supervisor of Mike's Ph. D. research on Solanaceae. I had first met Mike when I was the teaching assistant in John Thompson's plant systematics class at the University of Wisconsin. At that time Mike was an undergraduate and I had just completed my M.S. degree on the ecology and systematics of the genus Lecythis in Central America. I asked Mike to accompany me on the trip because of his love and knowledge of natural history; and because of his experiences on his family's farm in Richland County, Wisconsin. Although Mike is about six years younger than me, he already knew a lot about plants and I felt that we would get along well and would learn a great deal about botany together.

Mike agreed to go on the trip if I allowed him to number the collections in his number series, a small price to pay for his company for nearly six months. At that time he was at number 3533 and now (10 Feb 2013 he is at 59,672 (that number is a Lecythidaceae named Eschweilera ovalifolia from Bolivia). I received an e mail from Mike yesterday with images of the flowers, fruits, and seeds of this collection. It, like so many collections Mike has made, helped me better understand the characters and relationships of E. ovalifolia. Not only has Mike made more collections than any other flowering plant curator in the history of NYBG, but his collections are also informative and beautifully prepared. Bill Buck has made a few more, but he collects bryophytes and they are much easier to gather than are flowering plants.

Mike is also someone that other botanists turn to when they do not know the name of a plant. Usually he recognizes the family the unknown belongs to but he often identifies it to genus or even species. If he doesn't know what it is, Mike will search the literature and the herbarium until he finds out it's identify.

I am proud to have contributed to Mike's ability as a plant identifier on our trip by teaching him the names of two species and pointing out the common sense rule that it is unwise to insist that a determination is correct until proof from the literature or the herbarium documents the identification.

Species determination one: Mike and I were staying in a rundown hotel in Puerto Viejo, Costa Rica and our room had a large unscreened window which framed a tree unknown to Mike. When he asked what it was I responded "Terminalia catappa" and he said "impossible, there is no way that this tree is even a species of Combretaceae." I then challenged him "All right, I bet you a dollar that it is what I say it is" and he accepted the bet. It was difficult for him to pay the dollar because, like me, he was as tight as the bark on a tree. In defense of Mike, all of the other species of Terminalia possess winged fruits and T. catappa, is an introduced ornamental with wingless fruits.

Species determination two: we were riding in a bus along the Pan American Highway toward the Osa Peninsula in Costa Rica when Mike pointed out a common shrub with a blue corolla and declared that he wanted to collect that species of Solanum. I pointed out that it was not a Solanum but he stubbornly insisted and bet me a dollar that he was right. At the next rest stop, we walked down the road and learned that his beautiful Solanum was actually a species of Wigandia in the Hydrophyllaceae. With controlled rage, he handed over the dollar and, as far as I know, never bet on plant identifications again!

Mike and I have remained good friends ever since the adventures we had together travelling the length of Central America, Colombia, Venezuela, Suriname, up the Brazilian Amazon to Manaus, and then back to Colombia. In appreciation of all he did from me on that trip, I name Eschweilera neei in honor of him. Michael Nee is one of the best, if not the best neotropical plant collector and herbarium curator of the nearly 50 years that I have been a tropical botanist. I am grateful to him for all he has taught me, and thankful for our long term friendship.

Scott Mori
Nathaniel Lord Britton Curator of Botany
Institute of Systematic Botany
The New York Botanical Garden

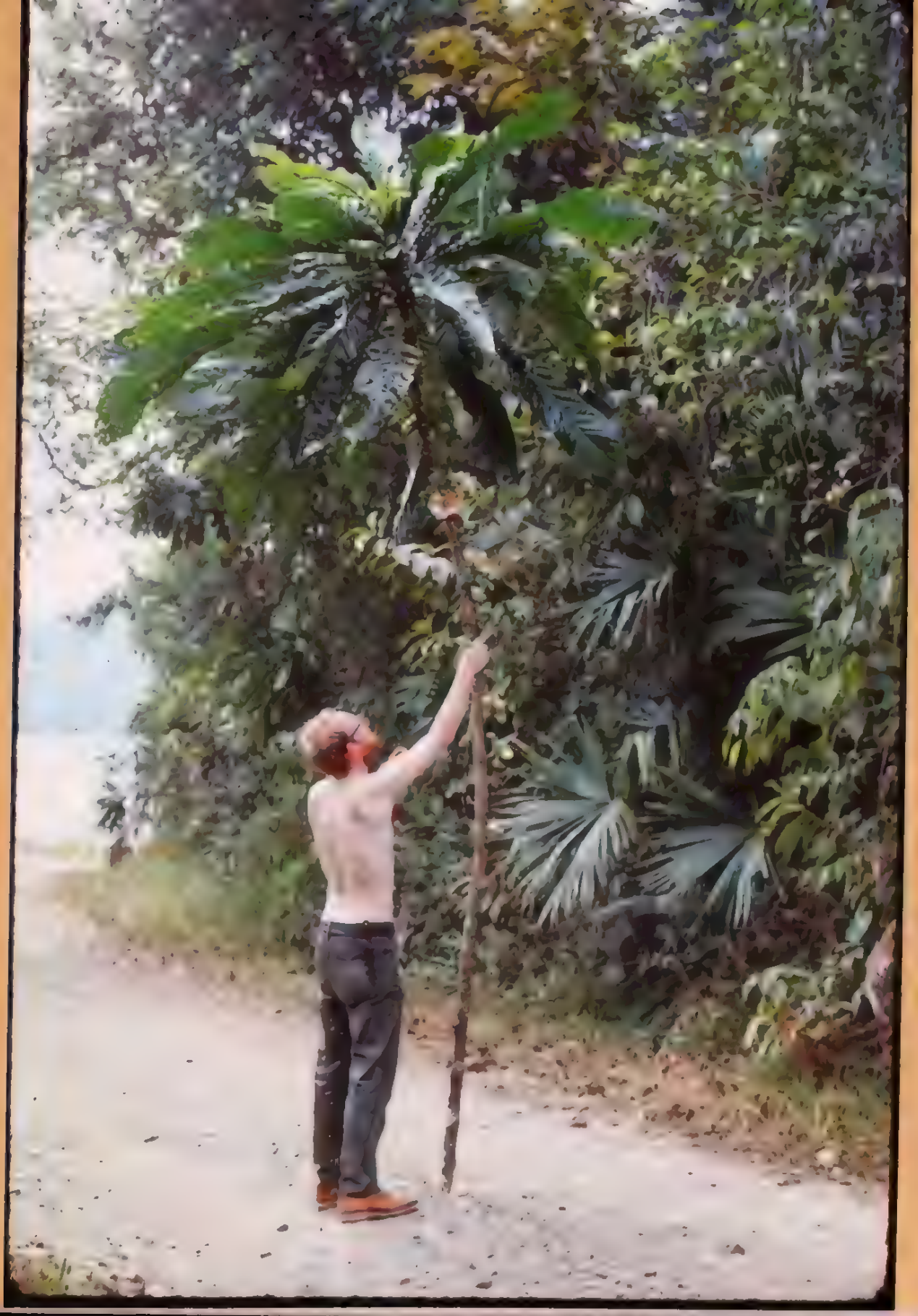


photo:
Scott
Mori

My Friend and Colleague Mike Nee
By Tom Croat

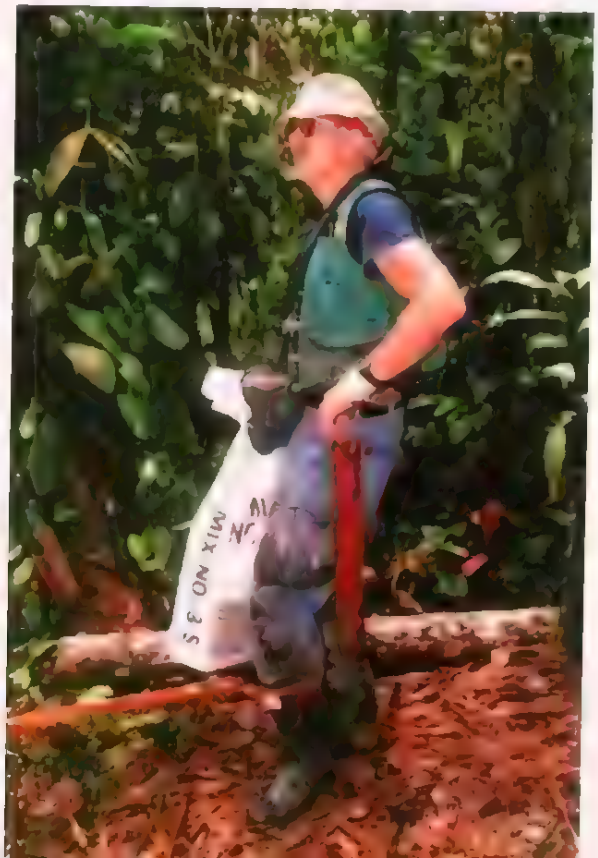
Mike and I never became close friends because we never spent a lot of time in the same place but he and I have a lot in common. Mike worked with me on the Flora of Panama Project. While I had been in charge of the Flora of Panama Project for five years I turned it over to Bill D'Arcy when I received a separate NSF grant to work on the Anthurium of Central America. Mike was our local Panamanian collector on that project and used our vehicle to go all over Panama to collect plants. He lived in the same trailer house where my wife and I had lived in the late 1960's. By the time Mike arrived it had been moved from Summit Gardens to Curundu on a lot under the control of the Air Force. When I visited Mike and stayed at the trailer I remember that Mike was not using the air conditioner, whether to save energy or just because he liked to suffer I do not know.

Mike Nee and I have a lot in common. We are both inveterate collectors and constantly want to seek new places and discover the flora and fauna. We both try to make good specimens and to make good descriptions. Mike sometimes got carried away in his enthusiasm such as when he pressed what appeared to be entire long leaf of a palm. There must have been more than 20 sheets of that palm! Anyone willing to tackle the collection of palms would never be considered a lazy person and to take on a *Bactris* or an *Astrocaryum* would be especially indicative of a true plant collector. Everywhere that Mike went during his career he collected profusely and liked the challenge of determining his collections. Herbaria all over the world are filled with his many collections.

Mike and I were also both farm boys so we shared a lot of experience in common. I was raised on a dairy farm in Iowa and Mike was from a similar background in Wisconsin. I remember that Mike once shared a long account written by a great aunt from the early pioneer days in Wisconsin and it was all so familiar to me, lots of snow and lots of manure to shovel and lots of milking cows by hand. Then there was the butchering of hogs and cows in the winter to provide food for the family. This was usually done when it was cold enough that you could leave the meat freeze and become more manageable to saw up into pieces. Other experiences involved working with teams of horses to mow and rake hay and to cultivate corn. The heavier work of plowing was done with our old tractors. We both spent the summer months putting up hay, first with the primitive dump rakes and pitch forks to load it on the hay rack, later rowing it with side-delivery rakes and loading it on wagons with a hay loader that one pulled behind the hay wagon, still later we used stationary bailer, hand tied bailers and finally the automatically tied string or wire-tied square bales. We both spent lots of hours in the sun throwing bale high up on the rack while getting tanned brown in the sun and strengthening our arms and backs. All this made for strong bodies and a heavy desire to get away from it all by going to school and finding a different career. Farm boys are hard workers who without complaining spend more than the required number of hours at our jobs because we were accustomed to hard work and perhaps also because we feel guilty to have such good jobs while there is still someone out there toiling on the land to provide us with food.

Mike Nee, Ron Liesner and I came to know plants from a very early age because you had to be intimately familiar with the weeds in the fields. It was important to know plants well, not only how to best grow them but to know which were the most vicious weeds in need of quick elimination owing to their ability to spread quickly or their propensity to produce lots of seeds and to know which weeds grew quickly and did greatest damage to the level of production of the crop. We did not know the scientific names, of course, but we knew them by their common names. I am sure that Mike became fascinated by their Latin names as I did when he went to college. He was no doubt impressed by people like his mentor Hugh Iltis who knew so many names at sight. This is what intrigued us with botany, that and the hope that we would not have to face the bottom side of a cow the rest of our lives. Still, after being away from farming for all of our professional careers neither of us forgot the lessons that the farm taught, the practical things like how to fix machinery, build buildings, to weld and work on engines. This sort of experience comes in handy when you are in the field and your vehicle craps out for no apparent reason or you get stuck in the mud so badly that you think the situation is desperate. Often things like this happen when you are far from civilization and have only your wits to get by, to find a way to get the engine running or to get you out of the mire.

Mike, on his retirement after a long and productive career at the New York Botanical Garden and after living in a huge city will return to that quiet country life that he long ago left. Hopefully though he will not have to sit down on a stool at the edge of a cow with his head buried into her flank while the milk is stripped out one squirt at a time.



From: Ron Liesner [Ron.Liesner@mobot.org]
Sent: Fri, 22 Mar 2013 2:06 PM
To: Atha, Daniel
Subject: Nee Retirement

Dear Daniel,
I was hoping to describe a new species, and name it after Mike, but I ran out of time. Mike has done so much important work and collecting, I wanted to name a species after him. If I would have to name the top five generalist for Neotropical plants, he would definitely be towards the top. We were at the University of Wisconsin at the same time, and I have known him for a long time. I hope he is able to keep working after he retires. I worry about the loss of people who know a large number of plants, and who will replace them. I hope Mike is able to come and visit Missouri frequently, and is able to help us. He has helped us a lot in the past. His collections have been very important in figuring out a lot of species and distributions. I still want to name a species after him for all of his contributions.
Sincerely, Ron

Field Museum, 1980. photo: Donna Ford-Werntz

[illegible] giant aroid leaf, Caribbean slope of Panama, NW. of Santa Fe, December 1974 (photo R. R. Kowal)

I've had the pleasure of knowing Michael since we became office mates at the University of Wisconsin in 1979. Michael was several years ahead of me so I appreciated him showing me the "ropes." His sense of humor was always unpredictable-I remember him making a choice comment when he saw a newspaper photo of the Pope kissing the ground upon arriving in Latin America.

We became friends and eventually shared several trips to Mexico. On one trip we collected in a variety of places all over Mexico, traveling and camping in my very old Dodge van. One favorite spot was Rancho del Cielo, in Tamaulipas, where there is a wonderful cloud forest growing on karst. We did a very long hike, ran out of water, and became dangerously thirsty. Since there was no surface water, we were very glad to make it back to the little biological station. The collecting was great because many of the taxa there reach the northern limit of their distributions at that site. Later that trip, further west in Mexico, we were stopped by the "federales" and briefly leaned hands against the van like criminals-the situation was quickly resolved, but it definitely got our attention. On the same trip we also collected on the tundra of Pico de Orizaba (the highest mountain in Mexico, 18,491 ft). The weather was great, so on a lark we decided to climb up to the glacier. We made it to the foot of the glacier and unbelievably it was so warm we needed only sweaters. That put a thought into our minds-to come back sometime and actually climb the mountain.

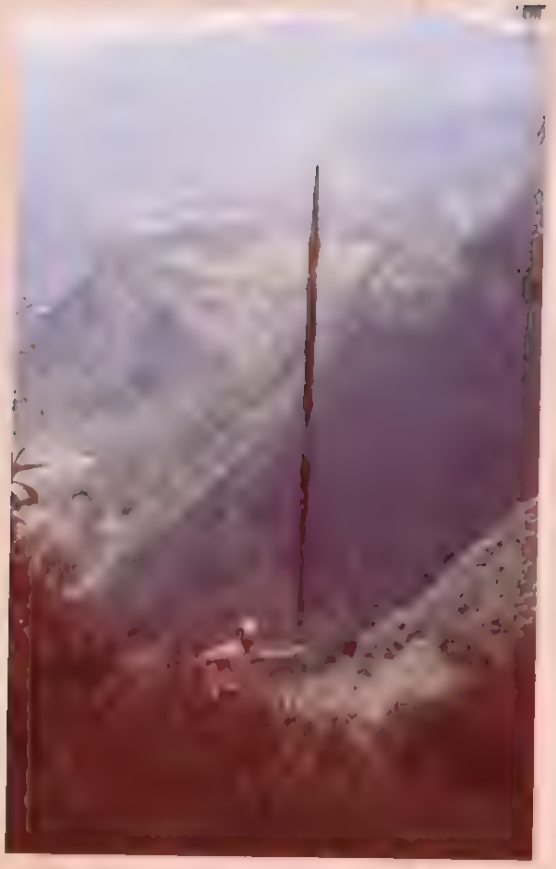
The next year (1983) my brother Tom and I flew to Mexico during my spring break to join Michael in an attempt to climb Pico de Orizaba. We first went to the summit of Cofre de Perote in Veracruz to get accustomed to the altitude. We camped there in the snow and had spectacular views all the way to Popocatepetl and Iztaccihuatl near Mexico City. Then we headed to Orizaba. When we got to about 14,000 feet (where there is a small stone building) but it had just snowed and there were very strong winds so strong in fact that we had to lay down and use our ice axes to prevent being blown away. We eventually attempted to climb and made it to somewhere around 16,000 feet near the beginning of the glacier. However, the very deep snow and extreme cold made it clear we couldn't keep going. It's a good thing we turned back because Mike's assistant (Kent I believe) got hypothermia and we had to warm him up before going down the mountain-all in all quite an adventure.

Michael was gracious in visiting Austin College (where I teach) several times to give seminars on his research. The students and faculty always enjoyed him, with talks focusing on such topics as the evolution of the squash family. His longest visit to Austin College was in 1993 when he made north Texas one of his three field sites for a bioprospecting project for Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. He was collecting bulk samples to be tested for bioactivity at three locations: Wisconsin, Texas, and Puerto Rico. The area surrounding Austin College was the Texas site-he spent about a month at my house and we collected with my Botany class. We collected and processed everything from bois d'arc fruits and roots to such testuous beasts as Pluchea, a comp. It was a whole new experience for the students and my yard looked like a drug processing facility: plants in boxes and bags drying in the sun and shipping boxes being packed in my garage. I didn't expect him to get me into the "drug" business.

Since then it's been great fun to see Michael at meetings and when he has visited the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) in Fort Worth where one of his students, Amanda Neill, is Director of the Herbarium. I hope to see him many more times in the future.

All the best, George Diggs

photos: George Diggs



Huahacacotla, Veracruz 1982

Guadalacazar, SLP, 1982

Ken and Tom Diggs, Perote, 1983

Perote

with George Schatz, Perote, 1983

Orizaba, 1982

Rancho del Cielo, 1982

Texas, 1993

A MISSION OF DISCOVERY

Amboró National Park
Bolivia, June 5

Eureka! I was exploring in the jungle hills at the foot of the Andes when I noticed flower petals on the ground, white petals about an inch-and-a-half long, and the inner part of a flower. The growth is so dense you can't really see up into the canopy, but if you find fallen flowers or fruits, you know there's a tree blooming. I was excited and immediately asked, "There aren't any magnolias in Bolivia, are there?"

There is no way to identify definitively a specimen in the field, so when I returned to the Garden, I rushed around the Herbarium like a kid in a candy store. I looked through our entire magnolia collection and there wasn't a single specimen of this type! It was not on our list of plants from Bolivia, and the family wasn't even listed there. I consulted other experts and the literature in our fantastic library, but nobody had ever found any species in the magnolia family in Bolivia. This Talauma is a very rare and locally restricted species, so another ten years of cut-and-burn agriculture and it could have been lost completely.

Plant biodiversity studies begin with the discovery and naming of plants. Scientists spend decades collecting and studying plants in the field. Specimens are identified, documented, and cataloged, and the findings published so that researchers the world over can benefit from their discoveries. Dr. Michael Nee published on his "new magnolia" in *Brittonia*, the Botanical Garden's renowned journal of systematic botany, and the type specimen is now part of its vast William and Lynda Steere Herbarium.

The New York Botanical Garden, March 2013

Dear "Uncle" Mike:

I can't believe you are retiring! You will recall that I first met you at the NYBG in the mid-1980s. I had just finished up an ethnobotanical post-doctoral position with the Institute of Economic Botany in Bolivia, and had returned to New York as a new Assistant Curator with the assignment to carry on the floristic research in the Guayana Highland that had been previously undertaken by Bassett Maguire. We soon found ourselves on the same field expedition to Cerro de la Neblina National Park in southern Venezuela, from January - March 1985. This expedition was part of a multi-disciplinary series of expeditions to document the flora and fauna of Neblina. We were among the botanists who focused on the flowering plants, me principally on the trees as part of a one-hectare forest inventory I was doing near base camp, and you and on the other angiosperms, so we got to know each other and observe collecting styles and techniques. This was an especially useful educational experience for me because you were already known as a great field botanist. Also, you had an academic pedigree that I already knew well and respected, as you had been a doctoral student of the legendary Hugh Iltis at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, just as had been my doctoral advisor at CUNY/ NYBG, Scott Mori. So, Mike, one could say you are an "uncle" of mine in the academic lineages of botanists.

But after Neblina, our paths in the field crossed only occasionally, in Belize once or twice, and then in Bolivia once. We each developed our own research projects and obtained grants to carry them out, often in the same countries, but in different regions and at different times. I was generally aware of your professional activities, but the latter half of the 1980s was my most active field period and I was away from NYBG probably more than I was around.

In trying to think how I could best honor you upon your retirement, it occurred to me I had a complete decade of your annual reports during the time I was Vice President for Botanical Science, between 1991 and 2001, and that if I scanned those and contributed those to this memory scrap book, that would be a way that you could reflect on those activities you regarded as the most important in your career during that decade. It would also be a way for others to know about what you were doing in those years, in your own words. So, I had pieced together your reports for each of those years; it was truly a cut-and-paste operation in the "old school" fashion, as I no longer had the documents saved electronically.

Before turning to the scrapbook of your professional life for 1991-2001, I just wanted to emphasize my deep admiration for your great dedication and extremely high competence as a field botanist. Your botanical specimens are renowned for their completeness and in the careful manner in which there were prepared. Of course the quality of your collections is only rivaled by the quantity; how many tens of thousands of specimens have you made? I know you had over 59,500 as of the end of 2012. Are you shooting for 60,000 before hanging up your plant press? Best of success in retirement, "Uncle" Mike! - Brian

FY 1992

Dr. Michael Nee, Neotropical Collections Specialist

"My botanical work at the Garden can be divided into two areas: systematic work on the Solanaceae and tropical American floristics. I am currently responsible for general determinations of Solanaceae for the Garden and receive general gifts for determination from the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Flora of the Guianas Project at the Smithsonian, as well as gifts for determination from many other institutions.

My main objective in monographic work is a Flora Neotropica treatment of Solanum subgen. Leptostemonum. There are approximately 800 names to deal with in this group from the New World and only sections Lasiocarpa (13 species), Androceras (12 species), Acanthophora (18 species) have modern treatments. A synopsis of my Ph.D. thesis on sect. Acanthophora has been published in the symposium volume for the Third International Solanaceae Conference, but the main taxonomic revision will be integrated into the Flora Neotropica work.

General collecting and floristic research has been divided between Bolivia and Brazil in this period. My first small project at Santa Cruz was to inventory the natural forest at the new Jardín Botánico de Santa Cruz. Collecting was essentially finished by early 1990; all collections have been labelled and identified or distributed to specialists. Partial keys to the woody taxa (212 species) have been prepared, and descriptions written for about half of the total of 420 species. The co-author of this work is Lic. G. Coimbra S., the ex-director of the Jardín Botánico de Santa Cruz.

My current major floristic project is a survey of the flora and vegetation of Parque Nacional Amboró and Parque Nacional 'Noel Kempff Mercado.' I have made 2,993 collections from Parque Amboró, and those of students and associates in Santa Cruz account for about 1,000 more. The flora is in manuscript form with family descriptions and species lists, with keys to genera and species already for a few groups. Mr. Israel Vargas C., a student at the Universidad Moreno in Santa Cruz has been supported by the project for two years. He has completed two 1-hectare forest inventories and is planning three more for his licenciatura thesis. Fieldwork in Parque Amboró is finished except for a planned trip in December to the highest cloud forest and the driest cactus desert valleys, and I expect to complete the manuscript in 1993. The same procedure is planned for Parque Huanchaca, with a concentration on initial fieldwork (460 collections were made in July 1991).

The fieldwork was initially financed by a $40,000 grant from the World Wildlife Fund and U.S. Agency for International Development. A proposal to USAID for a further three years of work at Amboró and Parque Nacional Noel Kempff Mercado, also with Dr. Wayt Thomas as Principal Investigator, has been funded.

For a six-month period (Jan-Jul), I was stationed in Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil, working on the Projeto Dinâmica Biológica de Fragmentos Florestais, a joint WWF/INPA/Smithsonian project. Over a 12-year period, about 52,000 trees had been measured on about 68 hectares of virgin upland forest, and herbarium material in triplicate collected. Since none of the material had been made available for distribution to specialists, with the help of a technician and two interns, we separated and sent about 24,750 specimens to various specialists. I also produced an approximately 250-page manuscript flora of the project area and made 740 numbered collections (and my intern an additional 216 under my direction), to collect more trees in fertile condition and to document the herbs, shrubs, vines, epiphytes and weeds not previously collected."

Dr. Michael Nee, Neotropical Collections Specialist

My botanical work at The New York Botanical Garden can be divided into two areas: systematic work on the Solanaceae and tropical American floristics.

I am currently responsible for general determination of Solanaceae for The New York Botanical Garden and receive general gifts for determination from Missouri Botanical Garden and the Flora of the Guianas project of the Smithsonian, as well as gifts for det. from many other institutions.

My main objective in monographic work is a Flora Neotropica treatment of *Solanum* subgen. *Leptostemonum*. There are approximately 800 names to deal with in this group from the New World and only sections *Lasiocarpa* (13 spp.), *Androceras* (12 spp.), *Acanthophora* (18 spp.) have modern treatments. I am finishing a revision of section *Torva*, based on the incomplete manuscript left by Michael Whalen at his death. The final taxonomic decisions were made early in 1993 and the I have nearly finished adding the citations of the considerable additional material not seen by Whalen.

General collecting and floristic research has been divided between Bolivia and Brasil in this period. My first small project at Santa Cruz was to inventory the natural forest at the new Jardín Botánico de Santa Cruz. Collecting was essentially finished by early 1990; all collections have been labelled and identified or distributed to specialists. Partial keys to the woody taxa (212 species) have been prepared, and descriptions written for about half of the total of 420 species. The co-author of this work is Lic. G. Coimbra S., the ex-director of the Jardín Botánico de Santa Cruz.

Dr. Michael Nee, Neotropical Collections Specialist (continued)

My current major floristic project is a survey of the flora and vegetation of Parque Nacional Amboró and Parque Nacional "Noel Kempff Mercado". I have made 2993 collections from Parque Amboró, and those of students and associates in Santa Cruz account for about 1000 more. The flora is in manuscript form with family descriptions and species lists, with keys to genera and species already for a few groups. Mr. Israel Vargas C., a student at the Universidad Moreno in Santa Cruz has been supported by the project for three years. He has completed four 1-hectare forest inventories for his licenciatura thesis. Mr. Vargas was able to visit the New York Botanical Garden for 6 weeks in the fall of 1992. He was introduced to the various aspects of herbarium work, such as labelling, but more especially in the identification of his specimens.

Fieldwork in Parque Amboró was finished during a trip in December, 1992-January, 1993 to the highest cloud forest and the driest cactus desert valleys, and I expect to complete the manuscript in 1993. The same procedure is planned for Parque Huanchaca, with a concentration on initial fieldwork (460 collections were made in July, 1991).

The fieldwork was initially financed by a $40,000. grant from the World Wildlife Fund and U.S. Agency for International Development. A proposal to U.S.A.I.D. for a further three years of work at Amboró and Parque Nacional Noel Kempff Mercado, also with W. Wayt Thomas as P.I. has been funded.

For a six-month period in January-July of 1992 I was stationed in Manaus, Amazonas, Brasil, working on the Projeto Dinâmica Biológica de Fragmentos Florestais, a joint WWF/INPA/Smithsonian project. Over a 12-year period about 52,000 trees had been measured on ca. 68 hectares of virgin upland forest, and herbarium material in triplicate collected. We had separated and sent about 24,750 specimens to various specialists. The current manuscript is nearly ready for duplication, based on these sterile collections, my 740 numbered collections (and my estagiário an additional 216 under my direction), and those of various other researchers in the area. The manuscript was worked on more or less continuously during this annual report period and now contains 338 single-spaced pages.

The Leguminosae was the major family I worked on during the report period, with the help of Dr. Rupert Barneby and Dr. James Grimes. About 5270 sterile specimens of legumes had been collected from the forest inventories; 3720 have been identified to species, while about half of the rest await the return of a loan of *Sclerolobium* for identification. There are now about 110 identified species of Legume trees from the 68 hectares of forest. I was also responsible for the total or partial identification of the sterile material from the families Lacistemataceae, Myristicaceae, Olacaceae, Sterculiaceae, Bombacaceae, Clusiaceae, Quiinaceae, Combretaceae. From my own collections, I identified a number species in these and other families. I added into the database the additional identifications by specialists

Dr. Michael Nee, Neotropical Collections Specialist (continued)
for the families Lauraceae, Moraceae, Lecythidaceae, Anacardiaceae, Simaroubaceae, and Bignoniaceae.

Dr. Michael Nee, Neotropical Collections Specialist

Collections for Pharmaceutical Screening: The first 6 months of this period were spent collecting material for extraction at the New York Botanical Garden and pharmaceutical screening by Pfizer Pharmaceutical, Inc. About 0.5 kg of dry material from various plant organs was required. The plant parts had to be sorted, usually cut up into smaller pieces, and dried.

Dr. Michael Nee, Neotropical Collections Specialist (continued)

Initial collecting was done on the New York Botanical Garden grounds, including salvage operations in the Enid Haupt Conservatory, where the plant collection was being removed for the major renovation project. Each species was vouchered by herbarium material (six duplicates), and with only a couple of exceptions, these were of fertile material.

August was spent in Wisconsin collecting in familiar territory. One month was spent at Sherman in northeastern Texas, with the collaboration of Dr. George Diggs of Austin College.

A month was spent in October-November in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, working out of the Universidad de Puerto Rico, Mayagüez and the Tropical Agriculture Research Station.

All of the herbarium voucher material was identified and labelled by mid-December, and the duplicates distributed. The screening material was delivered to the extraction laboratory. A database was maintained of the material collected and a systematic list of the families recognized by Cronquist (1981, An Integrated System) was kept up-to-date to keep track of collections already made and to guide future collecting.

In all, 1225 samples for screening were collected, and with the contract help of Dr. Henry Loconte and of Mr. Daniel Atha, the quota of 1500 samples was delivered to the extraction laboratory in good time.

Projeto Dinâmica Biológica de Fragmentos Florestais: Additional work was done on refining the manuscript of the flora of this rain forest area north of Manaus, Brazil, currently 350 pages single spaced. The Euphorbiaceae had been sent to the Field Museum just before their Euphorbiaceae specialist left botany. These 3000 mostly sterile specimens were sent to New York where I identified them and entered the determinations into the project database. Arrangements were made with Dr. Michael Hopkins for publishing the work in Manaus when the manuscript is ready.

Neotropical Floristics: General collecting and floristic research has been carried out in Bolivia. My first small project at Santa Cruz had been to inventory the natural forest at the new Jardín Botánico de Santa Cruz. Collecting was essentially finished by early 1990; all collections have been labelled and identified or distributed to specialists. Partial keys to the woody taxa (212 species) have been prepared, and descriptions written for about half of the total of 420 species. The co-author of this work is Lic. G. Coimbra S., the ex-director of the Jardín Botánico de Santa Cruz.

My current major floristic project is a survey of the flora and vegetation of Parque Nacional Amboró and Parque Nacional "Noel Kempff Mercado". I have made 2993 collections from Parque Amboró, and those of students and associates in Santa Cruz account for about 1500 more. The flora is in manuscript form with family descriptions and species lists, with keys to genera and species already for a few groups. Collections reported in the literature by Otto Kuntze and by Theodor Herzog have been added to this list. Mr. Israel Vargas C., a student at the Universidad Moreno in Santa Cruz has been supported by the project for three years. He has

Dr. Michael Nee, Neotropical Collections Specialist (continued)
completed four 1-hectare forest inventories for his licenciatura thesis.

Additional fieldwork was done in Parque Amboró during a trip in January, February, 1994, with 168 more collections from previously little-explored areas. An extension to the current U.S.A.I.D. grant (with W. Wayt Thomas as P.I.), for this floristic survey has been granted and it will run until Dec. 31, 1994. A total of 850 collections were made in Bolivia during this period; these have all been labelled and incorporated into the New York Botanical Garden herbarium and the majority identified.

In February, 1994, an agreement was made to participate with the Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza and the Museo de Historia Natural "N. Kempff M." of the Universidad G. R. Moreno in mapping the vegetation of Parque Nacional Amboró. Mr. Israel Vargas C. will be the Bolivian field assistant and counterpart. This project is part of the proposal by F.A.N. to draft the management plan for Parque Amboró, and will begin sometime in late 1994, if and when the contract with the Bolivian government is signed.

FY 1995

Dr. Michael Nee, Neotropical Collections Specialist

Bolivia: In December, 1994, I completed final field work on the project, "Biological Diversity in Bolivia: Botanical Inventory of the National Parks of Depto. Santa Cruz", funded by USAID. The collections made in December and some from preceding expeditions that had remained in storage were sent to New York Botanical Garden. All have now been labelled, and the majority identified and incorporated into the herbarium with the duplicates distributed. Ten copies were made in December of the Flora de Parque Nacional Amboró and distributed in Bolivia to the most relevant people. As this flora becomes more polished and illustrations prepared, a means of formally publishing it will be sought. The manuscript of the Flora de Parque Nacional "Noel Kempff Mercado" has also been provided to the botanists at the Museo de Historia Natural "N.K.M." of the Universidad A. "Gabriel René Moreno" in Santa Cruz, who are now involved in a large project funded by N.S.F. and under the direction of Dr. Timothy Killeen. It is not expected that this manuscript will be published.

Belize: In the spring of 1995 I began working with Mr. Daniel Atha two 2-1/2 hour sessions a week on the Checklist of the Flora of Belize project of Dr. Michael Balick of the Institute of Economic Botany. We are attempting to bring the synonymy into order, identify some recent collections, and otherwise bring the checklist into final shape. In this project I have been teaching Mr. Atha the techniques of herbarium/library work for floristic works.

Brazil: I continued to identify material for the massive forest inventory north of Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil (Projeto Dinâmica Biológica de Fragmentos Florestais). The manuscript for the flora of the area (150 families, 580 genera, 1480 species) was produced as camera-ready copy and will be published in Manaus in August, 1995.

FY1996

Dr. Michael Nee, Associate Curator

General collecting and floristic research were carried out in Bolivia, Belize, Brazil, and Panama. My main area of floristic research since arriving at The New York Botanical Garden has been on southeastern Bolivia. Work continues on the flora of Parque Nacional Amboró; a 350 page preliminary draft of this flora was distributed to interested persons in Santa Cruz in January, 1996. Additional fieldwork was done in Parque Amboró during December 1995 - January 1995 with 425 additional collections made from previously little-explored areas. My collections from this park now number 4000. I have now gathered 10,000 collections from the entire Department of Santa Cruz; all these collections have been labelled, and most have been identified and processed at The New York Botanical Garden. About 1500 collections made by students at Santa Cruz were processed in early 1996 at NYBG, with the determinations entered into a database and returned to Santa Cruz.

I have assisted in the preparation of a checklist of the plants of Belize, a project of the Institute of Economic Botany under the direction of Dr. Michael Balick.

Mr. Israel Vargas C., a student at the Universidad Autónoma "Gabriel René Moreno" in Santa Cruz finished his Licenciatura degree, partly under my direction, in 1996. His thesis reported on forest inventories of four hectares in different forest types in the Parque Amboró.

A Fulbright grant application was completed in June 1996, for six months of teaching/research in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, with the specific research objectives of finishing the Flora Espontánea del Jardín Botánico de Santa Cruz, and to continue collecting in the agricultural plain surrounding Santa Cruz for an eventual floristic treatment of this, the most dynamic agricultural region of the country and the one undergoing the most rapid deforestation.

Work continued on adding to the collections of Solanaceae and Cucurbitaceae at The New York Botanical Garden by receiving gifts for identification from various institutions and collectors. Numerous loans were received and returned.

FY1997

Dr. Michael Nee, Associate Curator

My main area of floristic research since arriving at The New York Botanical Garden has been on southeastern Bolivia. Work also continues on the flora of Parque Nacional Amboró; the single-spaced manuscript flora now numbers 375 pages. After solving problems of labelling and export permits, a backlog of about 2000 specimens from former students in Santa Cruz, arrived in New York and were databased and processed.

Work continued on adding to the collections of Solanaceae and Cucurbitaceae at The New York Botanical Garden by receiving gifts for identification from various institutions and collectors. Numerous loans were received and returned.

The manuscript of the *Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Belize, with Common Names and Uses*, with Michael Balick and Daniel Atha has been continued and will be submitted to the *Memoirs of The New York Botanical Garden* in August, 1997. Work on this manuscript allowed me to review the unidentified (and identified) material of most families of plants filed in the Mexico and Central America folders at NY, and, where possible, identify material to genus or species. The cycle of examining undetermined material in the South American collections continues along with work on identifying Bolivian material. I estimate that I have been able to go through the unidentified material of each family and most genera at least once every four years.

In June, 1997, the manuscripts for the symposium volume for the Fourth International Solanaceae Conference were delivered to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, where they will be published. This also gave me the opportunity to review Old World specimens at K for entry into the manuscript on the types of names of *Solanum* and allied genera. Material was also reviewed at the British Museum of Natural History (BM). The manuscript on all *Solanum* epithets is nearing completion. The geographical localities have mostly been clarified, and in 1996-97 most of the remaining type descriptions were located in the library of The New York Botanical Garden.

FY 1998

Dr. Michael Nee, Associate Curator

General collecting and floristic research was carried out in Bolivia, Mexico, and Guatemala. My main area of floristic research since arriving at The New York Botanical Garden has been on eastern Bolivia where fieldwork has now been essentially completed for the flora of Parque Nacional Amboró. The manuscript of the *Flora de la Región del Parque Nacional Amboró* now contains about 1100 genera and 3000 named species of vascular plants.

Dr. Michael Nee, Associate Curator . . . continued

Work continued on adding to the collections of Solanaceae and Cucurbitaceae at NY as a result of receiving gifts for identification, including 850 Solanaceae from Paraguay. Numerous loans were received and returned.

The manuscript of the *Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Belize, with Common Names and Uses*, with Michael Balick and Daniel Atha was submitted to the *Memoirs of the New York Botanical Garden* in December 1997.

The cycle of examining undetermined material in the South and Central American collections continues along with work on identifying Bolivian material. I estimate that I have been able to go through the unidentified material of each family and most genera of vascular plants at NY at least once every four years.

A manuscript on the types of names of *Solanum* and allied genera, underway for some years, is nearing completion. The geographical localities have mostly been clarified, and in 1997 most of the remaining type descriptions were located in The LuEsther T. Mertz Library of The New York Botanical Garden.

Four months in 1998 were spent teaching courses at the Universidad Autónoma "Gabriel René Moreno" in Santa Cruz as part of a 6-month Fulbright grant for teaching and research. The first, at the undergraduate-level, was a systematics course on plant families found in the region and on the modern classification systems for the Angiosperms. Field trips were taken with both small groups of students and with the entire class. The second was at the graduate level and was an intensive 4-week course on the types of botanical projects feasible at this time in Santa Cruz, and how to prepare studies for publication. Both courses had over 15 students.

FY1999

Dr. Michael Nee, Associate Curator

General collecting and floristic research were carried out in Bolivia, finishing up a seven month Fulbright grant for teaching and research in that country. My main area of floristic research since arriving at The New York Botanical Garden has been in eastern Bolivia where field work has now been essentially completed on the flora of Parque Nacional Amboró in the Department of Santa Cruz. The manuscript of the *Flora de la Región del Parque Nacional Amboró* now contains about 1,100 genera and over 3,000 named species of vascular plants. In July 1998, quick trips through parts of the Departments of Cochabamba and La Paz were undertaken, as was a short visit to Puno in adjacent Peru.

Dr. Michael Nee, Associate Curator... continued

Work continued on adding to the collections of Solanaceae and Cucurbitaceae at The New York Botanical Garden through receipt of gifts-for-identification, which included 850 Solanaceae from Paraguay. Numerous loans were received and returned.

The *Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Belize, with Common Names and Uses*, co-authored with Michael Balick and Daniel Atha, has been returned to the copy editor of the *Memoirs of the New York Botanical Garden* and will shortly be published.

Work is proceeding on a *Native and Naturalized Flora of the New York Botanical Garden.*

Almost all of the 2,700 numbered collections from my 1998 expedition to Bolivia have been labeled and duplicates separated where necessary for determination by specialists.

FY2000

Dr. Michael Nee, Associate Curator

A specific collection plan was carried out in Bolivia in late 1999, finishing the primary collecting phase for my proposed flora of the area in and around Parque Nacional Amboró in the Department of Santa Cruz. A grant proposal was submitted to the *National Science Foundation* for completion and publication of this flora, and a total of $225,000 was awarded for three years of this project, 2000–2003. The manuscript of the *Flora de la Región del Parque Nacional Amboró* now contains about 1,100 genera and over 3,000 named species of vascular plants. My main concentration of floristic research since arriving at the Garden has been on eastern Bolivia, of which this project is one component.

In February 2000, I was invited, along with two other foreign botanists, to evaluate the progress of the *Flora de São Paulo project*, a massive project involving over 100 Brazilian botanists in a number of Brazilian and foreign institutions. We visited several herbaria in two cities in the State of São Paulo, interviewed participants in the project, and consulted with other colleagues on this and other matters. We then presented our findings to the state funding agency. Afterwards, I had the chance to visit additional herbaria in Rio de Janeiro.

The month of April 2000 was spent in Argentina with Dr. Lynn Bohs of the University of Utah. We were studying the Solanaceae both in the herbarium and in the field, and collected traditional herbarium specimens along with over 100 collections of DNA material for future molecular systematic studies in the family. Both of us consulted with Argentinean colleagues and gave lectures on our research.

Work continued on adding to the collections of Solanaceae and Cucurbitaceae at the Garden by receiving gifts for identification from various institutions and collectors. Numerous loans were received and returned.

The corrected page proofs, including the index, of the manuscript for the *Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Belize, with Common Names and Uses*, co authored with Michael Balick and Daniel Atha, have been returned to the copy editor of the *Memoirs of the New York Botanical Garden* and will be published in late summer or early fall of 2000.

FY2001

Dr. Michael Nee, Associate Curator

In June of 2000 I attended the Fifth International Solanaceae Conference at Nijmegen, The Netherlands, and presented one of the keynote speeches. This Conference brings together researchers from around the world. As a member of the International Organizing Committee, I helped choose the University of Wisconsin-Madison as the site of the Sixth International Solanaceae Conference.

After the Solanaceae Conference, I was able to visit the herbaria in Munich, Germany, Geneva, Switzerland, and London, England, to complete work on a manuscript on the genus *Cestrum*. Visits were also made during

Dr. Michael Nee, Associate Curator... continued

the year to the herbaria at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

An additional month was spent in Bolivia in November 2000 for general collecting in the underrepresented southern part of the country. Another trip to Parque Nacional Amboró has now completed my fieldwork for my proposed flora of the area in and around the park in the Department of Santa Cruz. A web page has been nearly completed to include a checklist of the plants known so far from Parque Amboró.

The month of May 2001 was spent in Bolivia with Dr. Sandra Knapp of the Museum of Natural History (London) and Dr. Lynn Bohs of the University of Utah collecting Solanaceae for our various floristic and phylogenetic studies. My main concentration of floristic research since arriving at The New York Botanical Garden has been on eastern Bolivia, of which this project is one component.

Work continued on adding to the collections of Solanaceae and Cucurbitaceae at The New York Botanical Garden by receiving gifts for identification from various institutions and collectors. Numerous loans were received and returned.

FY2002

Dr. Michael Nee, Associate Curator

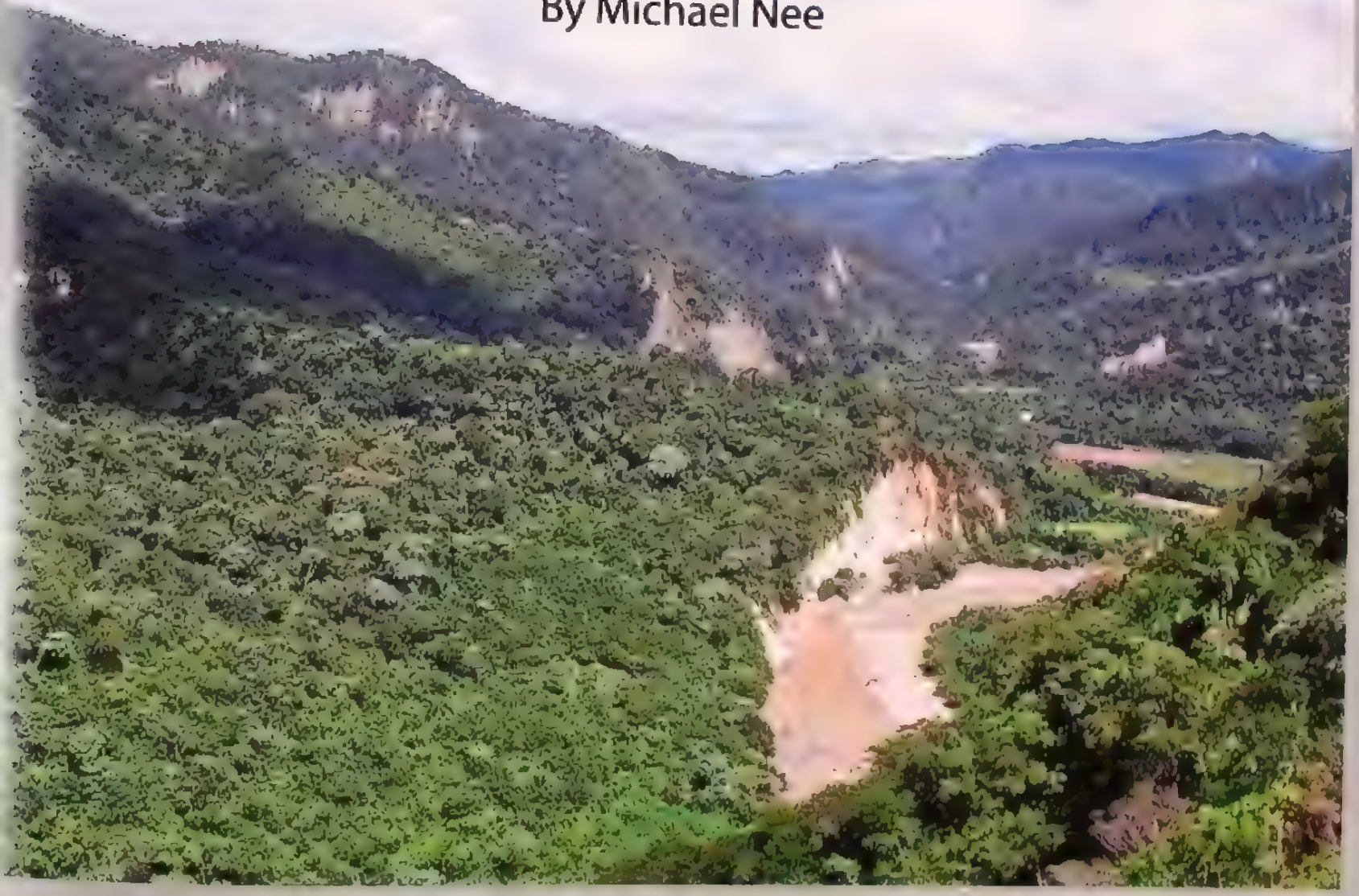
My activities have been focused on completion of the *Flora de la Región del Parque Nacional Amboró*. Work at the Garden consists of a family-by-family study of all the accumulated collections from the *Flora* area, identifying the last unidentified specimens, and writing the descriptions and the keys. Fieldwork was carried out in March and April 2002 in Bolivia; my research assistant, Mr. Michael Sundue, is responsible for the pteridophytes for this flora. The travel and field work in the Parque Nacional Amboró area in March and April were designed to give him an overview of all the main vegetation types and to collect in some of the most fern-rich areas. During these trips, different combinations of botany students from Santa Cruz were taken along on the different trips for experience in fieldwork, and to visit the other main botanical centers in Cochabamba and La Paz. At both of these cities I gave a workshop on techniques for work on the project *Checklist of the Flowering Plants of Bolivia* being carried out by the Missouri Botanical Garden, with my collaboration. Three students returned to the Garden with us for a month at New York, and made trips to the Everglades National Park, Florida; the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., the Field Museum, Chicago, and the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis. This provided them with their first visit to various botanical institutions of the United States, with large libraries and collections, where they could work on research projects initiated in Bolivia. My main concentration of floristic research since arriving at The New York Botanical Garden has been Bolivia, of which these floristic projects are one component.

Dr. Michael Nee, Associate Curator... continued

Work continued on adding to the collections of Solanaceae and Cucurbitaceae at the Garden by receiving gifts for identification from various institutions and collectors. Several loans were received and returned.

Flora de la Región del Parque Nacional Amboró, Bolivia

By Michael Nee



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

23 February 2013

Michael,

Congratulations on your retirement! You probably don't remember when we first met, but it was in 1977 in the herbarium at the University of Wisconsin. I was then an undergraduate at Beloit College in Wisconsin and had come to Madison to use the herbarium to work on a class project. It was a bit intimidating using a big herbarium for the first time; I did not know anyone there. I remember you were talking to Hugh Iltis, and then you came over to me and asked what I was doing. We chatted about my project and a few other botanical topics. I so much appreciated your hospitality and friendliness! We have been friends and have been having interesting botanical conversations ever since!

We were in the field together only once: in 1994 in Bolivia. You joined a two-week fern course I was teaching in Spanish at the national herbarium in La Paz You accompanied us on a weekend field trip and tactfully pointed out some of my howlers in Spanish, for which I was extremely grateful (e.g., *Pecluma* looking like my "comb"; I won't go into more detail on that one!). After the course was over I flew to Santa Cruz, and we spent one week collecting in the field As we drove to various collecting localities, you regaled me stories about the vegetation, flora, geology, and history of the region. I learned a lot and was impressed by your knowledge about the place. You were a wonderful guide and host

Since I started work at NY in 1998, our offices have always been next to each other: first on the sixth floor where the library reading room is now, then on the second floor off the main entrance and orchid rotunda, and now on the fourth floor. Because of this proximity, we've interacted a lot. I've enjoyed your stories about old botanical collectors, field work, genealogy, language evolution, and astronomy We could commiserate with each other over our deep dislike of non-indented keys! Over the years, I have appreciated your many kindnesses, such as passing along the Tuesday *New York Times* containing the science section. I also appreciated the patience and consideration you gave to Michael Sundue, my doctoral student (now at the University of Vermont, Burlington), and furthering his interests in taxonomy. In all this time, you have done only one thing that I did not care for much raising a bot fly in your arm and until it dropped out. Yuck!

You have been active so long that it is hard to imagine neotropical botany without you And now that you are retiring, who will annotate specimens with such determination and detail in the more out-of-the way cabinets of the herbarium? I wish you happiness during retirement and will miss you enormously

Sincerely,

Robbin Moran

Robbin Moran, Ph.D
Curator of Ferns & Lycophytes
Mary Flagler Cary Curator of Botany

Hey there, Miguel -

We are sorry to see you leave the NYBG after these many years, first on the sixth floor together and then on the fourth floor adjacent to the meetings of the New York Fern Society. We were glad you could join the fern group for refreshment, both alimentary and academic. It was a small price to pay for your help in taking care of some of our members who showed up on the wrong day or on snowy days when we could not be there - touring them through the herbarium or around the grounds, imbuing them with your special brand of botanical knowledge.

You have been a great and often humorous source of information on genealogy and Bolivia and cucurbits and Solanaceae and wood. Stay close to your computer - our questions will continue. We hope you come back often.

Frondly,

Carol and John

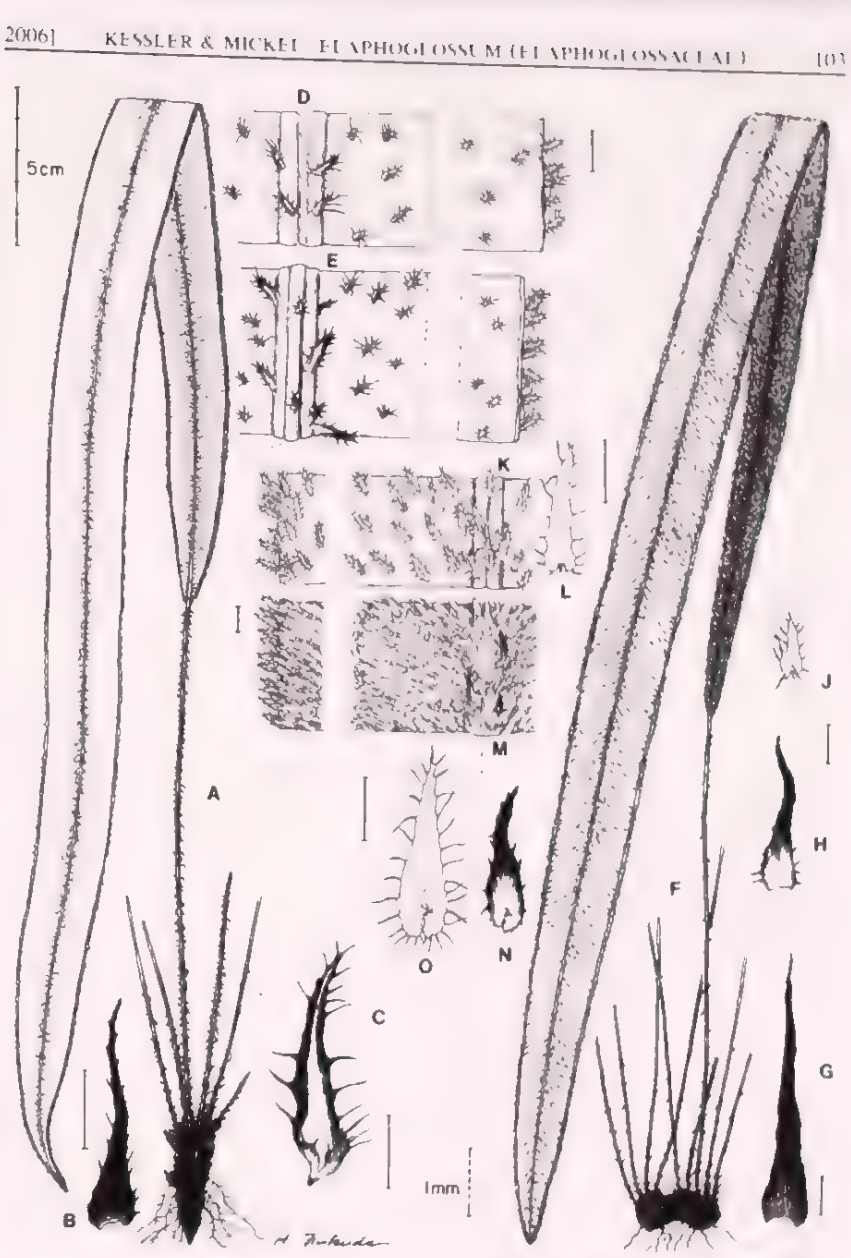


FIG. 6. A–E. *Elaphoglossum neei* (*Nee & Bohs 49764*, NY, holotype) A. Habit B. Rhizome scale C. Petiole scale D. Adaxial blade surface detail E. Abaxial blade surface detail F–O. *Elaphoglossum eikeae* (*Solanes* [illegible] NY, holotype) F. Habit G. Rhizome scale H, J. Petiole scales K. Adaxial blade surface detail L. Scale from adaxial blade surface M. Abaxial blade surface detail N, O. Scales from abaxial blade surface

Dear Mike: I am away from the Garden all of March and so will miss your retirement party. So here is a short note to wish you a long and happy retirement. I am not sure how many years you have been at the Garden, but I do remember, as a grad student, hearing your interview seminar, on plant collecting in Mexico. So I'll bet its almost 30 years. Now you are moving back to Wisconsin. I am not sure where that is (somewhere near Canada?), but it sounds rural and bucolic. It may not have many solanums but there must be squashes

In the time you have been at the Garden, you have made a great contribution to the herbarium. I sometimes think that flashy publications get all the attention, but the thankless work of collecting plants and curating the herbarium often goes unappreciated. But I think few curators have collected as many plants as you over the years, and I am sure none has spent as much time as you curating the herbarium. Publications are soon out of date, but specimens last forever!

We will miss you. I know that if ever I have a question to ask, not just on nomenclature but on almost any topic, you are the person I go to. And you always had the answers, which I am sure were right (the only time I doubted you was when you told me you were related to Charlemagne! According to Wikipedia, he was "the oldest son of Pepin the Short and Bertrada of Laon", and I am sure neither of them had ever been to Wisconsin!).

So I wish you a long and happy retirement and the very best of luck in the future. Come back and visit, I am sure to have question for you!

Best, Andrew

"He had beautiful white hair, animated eyes, a powerful nose, a presence always stately and dignified. He was temperate in eating and drinking, abominated drunkenness, and kept in good health despite every exposure and hardship."

EINHARD (the King's secretary) describing Charlemagne. Text and photo from the LucidCafé Library, 3 February 2013

I got to know Michael Nee about 20 years ago through a mutual friend, Tom Andres. The three of us share a keen interest in cucurbits, especially those of Cucurbita, the genus encompassing squash, pumpkins, and "fancy" ornamental gourds. I visited Michael at NYBG almost every year for the past 15 years or so, to exchange our newest findings and discuss the oldest as well as the latest cucurbit literature. One time, in 2006, the three of us even met at the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris, France, to view the newly re-discovered late 18th-century paintings of Cucurbitaby the founder of Cucurbita taxonomy, Antoine Nicolas Duchesne. Most of our meetings, including the one in Paris, culminated in a farewell banquet at the nearest KFC. I spent an exciting sabbatical year with Michael at NYBG from August 2010 to July 2011, during which time we even were able to put together a paper, published in Economic Botany, summarizing the similarities and differences between the two domesticated subspecies of Cucurbita pepo. I will sorely miss Michael's insights and companionship in my anticipated future visits to NYBG and I wish him an enjoyable and fulfilling retirement in Wisconsin.

I am also attaching a pdf of the front cover of Economic Botany 66(1), in which the mentioned article (above) appears, which is a nice picture of fruit variability in Cucurbita pepo.

Harry

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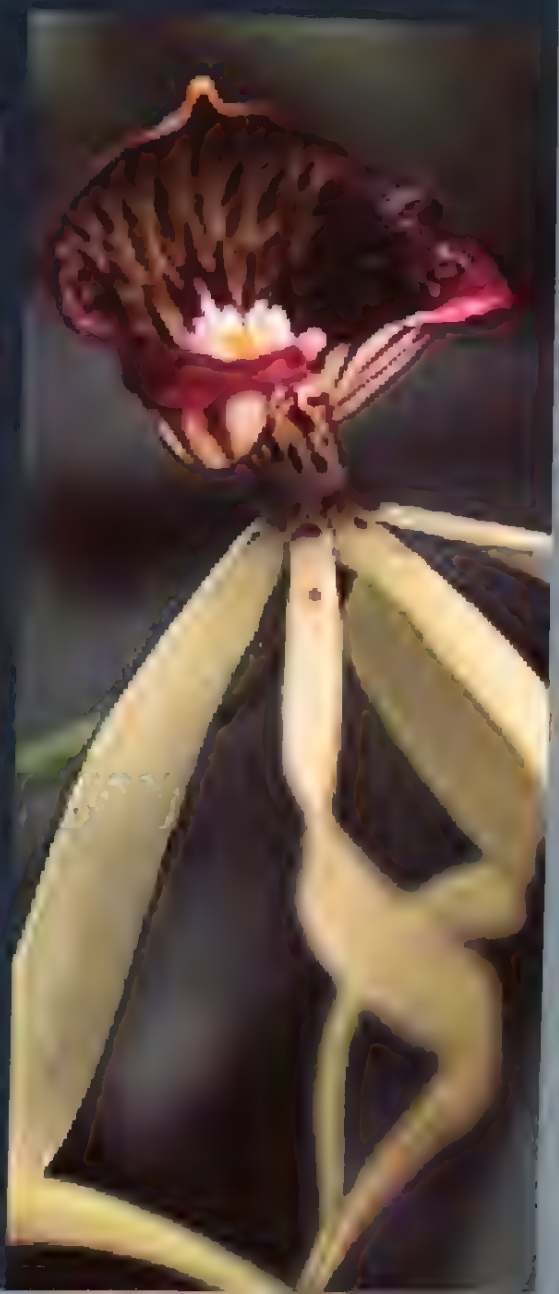
It has always been a pleasure to work with Michael Nee. He is an extraordinary botanical scholar, filled with knowledge, energy and passion for the discipline. During the early days of The NYBG's ethnobotanical work in Belize, it became clear that an updated checklist of the plant species of that Central American nation would be essential to our program. Over a period of a couple of years, I called upon every specialist that I knew to send me a list of the species in their families that could be found in Belize, and at the end of the day, the result was an uneven listing of taxa in a number, but not all of the plant families. 'Sad' was an understatement about the quality of this floristic checklist. When I approached Michael to discuss my dilemma-the conservation and scientific community in Belize really wanted a list, but what I had in my hand was miserable-he enthusiastically agreed to work on a properly written checklist, with common names and specimen and use data. He took this on with Daniel Atha, and together they not only gathered the extant data but made a number of trips to Belize to botanize in areas that were poorly collected. I'd wander over to the NYBG Herbarium late at night and there they would be, working through one of the plant families of Belize. The end product was published in December 2000, in Memoirs of The New York Botanical Garden and contained information on 3408 plant species. Today, Belizeans working in the ecotourism industry consider this one of their most important resources for learning about the flora of their country and teaching visitors. I will be forever grateful for Michael's enthusiasm in taking on this project, despite his 'day job' of so many other Neotropical botanical commitments.

Thanks for all that you have done to make The New York Botanical Garden a center of botanical excellence, and best wishes in your future endeavors,
Michael J. Balick

Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Belize

WITH COMMON NAMES & USES



Michael J. Balick
Michael H. Nee
Daniel E. Atha

Dear Michael,

My short term memory may be faulty, but some events from long ago are clear as a bell I don't know how that works, since whatever memory I possess today was at one time a short-term memory. Anyway.....

I remember it like it was yesterday I was filing specimens on the second floor east wing of the old herbarium, where the classrooms and communications are now located I think it was in the Ranunculaceae or therabouts You introduced yourself, told me about your farm in Wisconsin and offered to take me on a field trip if I was interested At the time, you were just another Dr so-and so, but I definitely noticed a difference You were friendly and cheerful-- very different from the other senior staff I had met

It may have been that time or shortly thereafter when you invited me to go on a collecting trip with you and Tom Andress We drove up Route 9 W toward Bear Mountain (I think) and collected *Laportea*, *Vitis* and a few other things After that it was time to head back to San Marcos and start my junior year Little did I know that my life was about to take a dramatic turn.

Before I left NY in August of 1993, you suggested I might be able to collect samples for the Pifzer Project You must have known how potentially important that was for my future, but I had no clue and probably little appreciation I was pretty full of myself then, thinking I could do anything I set my mind to and suspicious of anything I didn't think of or create myself Well the next thing I know I get a letter from you letting me know you were coming down to Sherman, Texas and could make a side trip to San Marcos to get me started collecting I wrote you back and said sure, come on down (I hope I find these letters and get them to the archives some day) You showed up at my apartment in a rental car and a small black duffel bag , a battered field press, your notebook and some clippers On the 9th of October we went out and collected three bulk samples (*Tillandsia usenoides*, *Mirabilis jalapa* and *Quercus fusiformis*) You didn't stay long, but as soon as you left I got busy collecting samples, drying them in the closet of m apartment which I converted into a bulk sample drier Throughout that fall and winter of 1993 and the spring of 1994, I collected a little over a hundred samples and shipped them up to Jan Stevenson in the Institute of Economic Botany.

After another summer filing specimens in the herbarium, Mike Balick and Brian Boom offered me the opportunity to go to Puerto Rico with Tom Zanoni for two month and collect more samples for the Pfizer contract I always suspected you had something to do with that, but I never asked Anyway. it felt like I was following in your footste going off to the jungle and hearing stories about you from Duane Kolterman and Gary Breckon.

When I got back, I asked Mike Balick what was next and he suggested I might finish up a checklist of the plants of Belize he had pieced together with interns and volunteers Mike just wanted something he could use in the field and share with collaborators But I figured as long as we were going to all that trouble, we may as well publi the list so it would be more accessible and preserved for future researchers I don't remember whether I asked you first or I asked Mike first, but before long you had agreed work with us on the list and that we'd eventually submit if for publication.

You and I agreed that it might take a bit more than six months, but when we met with Mike, we assured him it would be done in six A few months in and we both realized it was going to take a LOT longer maybe even a year! We asked for six more months and got it By then we had developed a system for working Two or three time week you and I would meet for several hours and review one family at a time In the interim, I'd gather everything I could find about the next family that was relevant to Beliz (published and unpublished) and load it all on a cart and we'd meet in the herbarium wherever that family happened to be We skipped around a little, but mostly we worked systematically, starting on the sixth floor with the monocots and ending up on the lower floors with the Rubiaceae and Asteraceae You went through every cabinet, genus by genus pulling everything from Belize and nearby and we'd go through the specimens comparing them to what was already reported and trying to make sense of the discrepancies At one year we realized it was going to take a year or two more, so we asked for one and got it At two years, we asked for another year and got it. We visited several other herbaria, including Field Museum (two or three times), Missouri (several times), Harvard, Smithsonian, Texas, British Museum, Kew and others And we eventua made it to Belize together, but had to piggy back the trip with bulk sample collecting, which didn't leave much time for anything else, except keeping on eye on Peter and Javie and the growing pile of bulk samples which had to be dried, bagged and shipped After three years the manuscript was finally ready and we submitted it to Bill Buck, editor of Memoirs of the New York Botanical Garden. By the spring of 2001 it was published!

Unfortunately, that was our one and only major project together We collected together for Merck on a few trips, including a memorable cross country trip in the fall 2000 when we drove from the east coast of Maine where you had lobster for the first time, all the way to the west coast where we spent one frigid night on the Olympic Peninsula, terrified we were about to be eaten by grizzly bears that turned out to be seals And you helped me get negotiations underway in Bolivia for an unsuccessful collaboration with Merck.

You have taught me so much about botany, science and life in general Some things I adopted right away, like how to press and dry specimens, but others it's taken me years and years to learn I'm embarrassed to think now of the oversized duffel I brought to Puerto Rico for that first trip of my career I even brought down a pair of cowboy boots just in case I need some dancing shoes A year or two later, when we visited Harvard, I thought I needed some fancy clothes like a jacket and tie and extra shoes, whic meant I had to bring a garment bag which meant I had to bring another bag for the checklist materials, which meant I could barely carry everything myself, which meant we were almost late for every connection and which meant I showed up every were a sweaty mess.

It's taken me twenty years to travel anywhere near as light as you and I'm still not there yet but I'm close I think I inherited that same black gym bag you brought down to San Marcos so long ago and which I now use for all my trips—and try not to fill.

I recently saw (and photographed) all your field notebooks lined up in the archives, every single one of them the same brown pocket-sized notebook from 1 to 109 With conflicting advice about notebooks early on and thinking yours were "old fashioned", I had to rebel and try several different kinds It was a waste of time They were either too bulky and didn't fit in any pocket, were expensive water-proof kinds that smudged the graphite and had few pages or they were some new-fangled design I'd never find again On 13 January, 1998, I saw the light and adopted your brand and never looked back I can see it now My shelf in the archives will be much shorter and a lot less elegant. There will be the rebellious phase occupying a chaotic ten inches and the enlightened phase occupying a sleek and uniform ten inches, but containing far more information. I'm not quite down to eating lima beans for dinner, but I'm close!!

Sincerely,

Daniel Atha

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

IMAGED

Michael Nee and Daniel Atha, about 1996

ıchael at British Museum, 1997

Working on Belize Checklist at Kew, 1997; facing page: supervising bulk sample collection in Belize, June 1996, to right are Michael Nee, Polo Romero, Peter Meleady and Javier Cordero.

Practicing Quechua and expaining the taxonomy of cultivated squashes, Bolivia, 1998

Michael in the Dirca patch, Richland, Wisconsin, September 2000

Grand Coulee Dam, October 2000

e got 6 hours; 22 minutes and 10 seconds till I leave here for good. Now what do you want?"

Dear Michael,

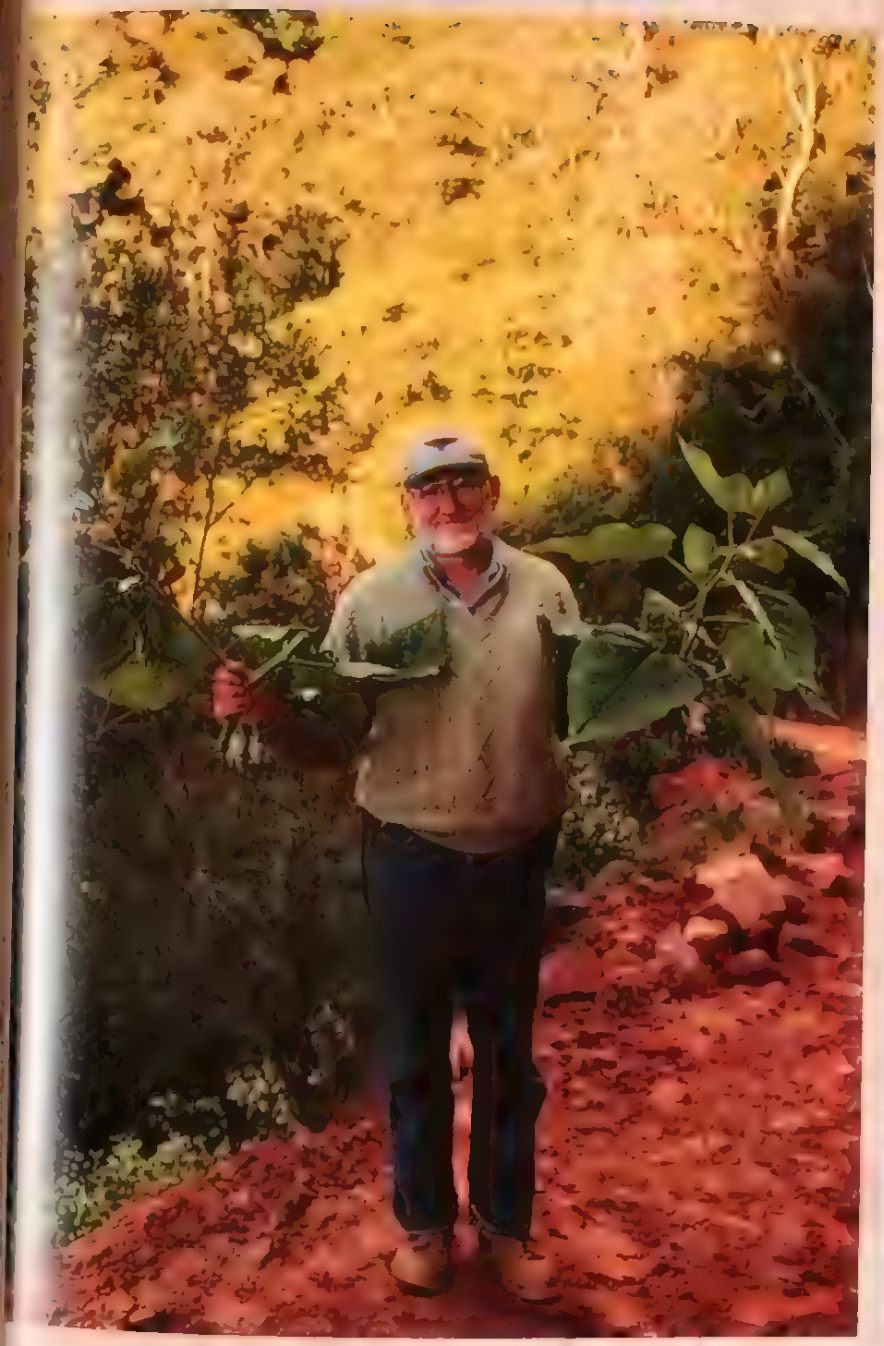
I will never forget our memorable days in the field in Bolivia, Argentina, and Paraguay. Most notable are the Great Tree Tomato Expeditions of 1998 and 2000 where we and our intrepid colleagues Daniel, Yaneth, Fabiana, Andrea, and Alicia ventured to the wilds of southern Bolivia and northwest Argentina in search of the wild tree tomato. Success was sweet as we encountered numerous "chilto" plants on both sides of the border, definitively establishing the native range of *S. betaceum*. Other memorable highlights of our collecting forays include *S. thelopodium* outside Santa Cruz, *Trechonaetes* in the "Quebrada de Mierda" on the road to Entre Ríos, exploring the aqueduct over Sorata, the opera at Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, collecting in beautiful Valle de Zongo, seeing condors over the Andes, and the trip to the Parque Amboro Mataracú field station. And of course the trip with Moises and the two *Solanum* reinas in 2001 (*Solanum inelegans* and two flat tires, the reina's tower room in the mouldering Castillo, the exquisite sojourn in Gran Hotel Totora, despairing over finding *Solanum clandestinum* only to find that we were eating lunch underneath it).

Thanks for the many memories. There are countless more. May your retirement be filled with peace and happiness as well as fun adventures.

Lynn Bohs

Wild Solanum bataceum, northern Argentina, photo: Lynn Bohs.

photo by Lynn Bohs

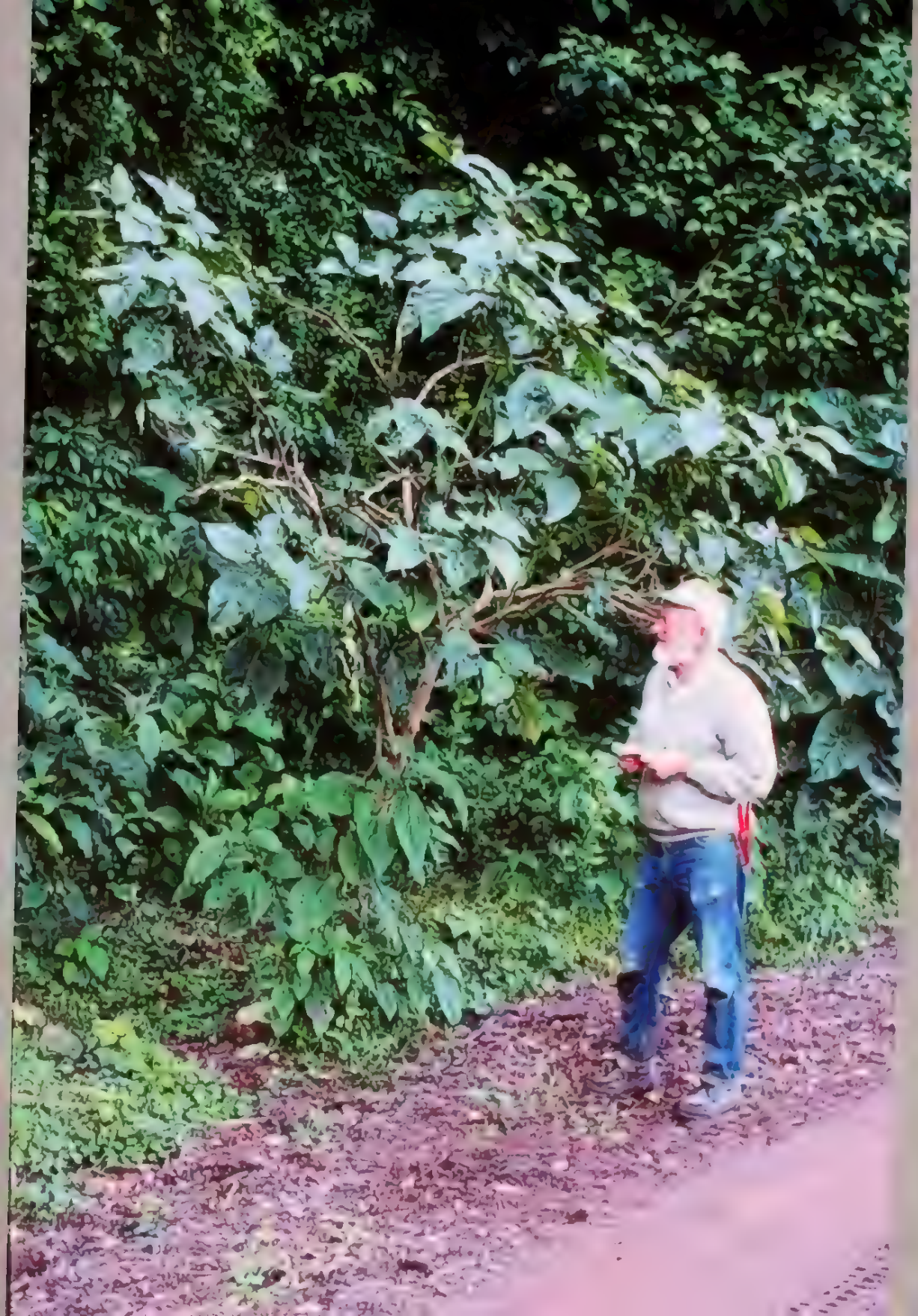


ld Solanum bataceum, southern Bolivia. photo: Lynn Bohs

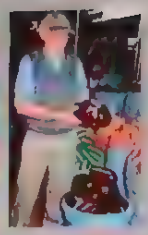
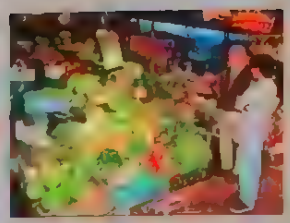
Solanum clandestinum, Nee et al 51781. photo: Lynn Bohs

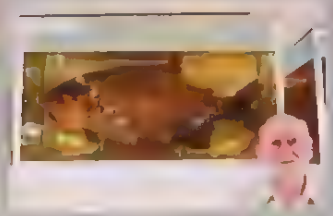
Solanum hirtellum, Bohs & Nee 3168. photo: Lynn Bohs

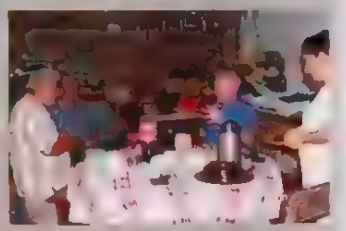
Solanum hieronymi, Nee et al 50761. photo: Lynn Bohs

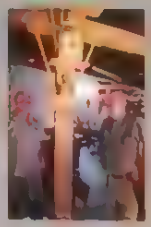


Wild Solanum bataceum, northwest Argentina. photo: Lynn Bohs

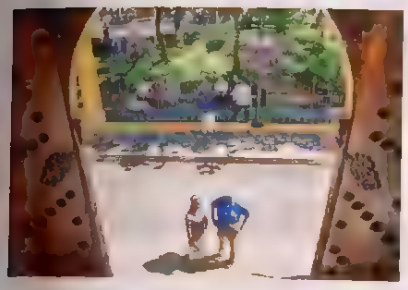









Bolivia,
photos by Tom
Andres



Colombia, photos by Tom Andres

Venezuela, photos by Tom Andres

United States, photos by Tom Andres

Smithsonian Institution
National Museum of Natural History

Memo

March 15, 2013

Dear Michael,

Congratulations on your retirement! At this occasion, I want to thank you for the fantastic field trip together to Bolivia in early 2006. I enjoyed every minute of it. We got all those wonderful collections of *Dendropanax*, *Aralia*, *Oreopanax*, *Prunus*, *Cissus*, the stinky *Paederia*, of course, *Solanum*, and so many other groups. I learned so much from you and you were such a generous friend!

I will never forget our last day in the field in Bolivia. I got up early in the morning and said to you: "I have to have fish for dinner and a shower tonight." You gave me such a strange look. I realized that I had to give you some explanations for this sort of tune from me. It was the Chinese New Year's day. I was hoping that we could treat ourselves with a nice hotel and a good restaurant, after a long journey in the Andes. Amazingly, we even had fish for lunch, while collecting in the high mountains in Bolivia! It was a great collecting day, and finally we collected our *Dendropanax* nearly in the darkness. Of course you found the place with a shower for me and also fish for dinner! Fish is a good-luck symbol for Chinese New Year and Chinese believes that it brings good luck to the rest of the year

I must be an unusual field companion for you. On my first step in the field in Bolivia, I got a snakebite. You took me to the Italian clinic, and said that Jun was OK after the snakebite, but the snake was in trouble. Thanks for cheering me up! You perhaps saw in my eyes that I was not afraid of death! Not quite!

You were so good to the students we met. You patiently shared botany with them, identified plants for them, and were so generous to them!

You were so selfless, Michael! At the end of each collecting day in the Andes, you put the bags of our collections in your room. One day I walked into your room and realized that the ethanol smell was so strong, and I insisted that we must put the alcohol soaked bags of specimens in a separate room. You also tried to stay in a room without AC most of the time to save money for my budget! You are so generous and considerate to others

It was such a wonderful trip and I have been sharing the experiences with many others. You have inspired me on how to work with others! Thanks, my dear friend! I hope I will still see you sometimes after your retirement. Maybe I will stop by and we will botanize together again!!

Sincerely,

Jun Wen
Research Scientist & Curator
Department of Botany MRC-166,
National Museum of Natural History
Smithsonian Institution

photos: Jun Wen

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

High life Giant lobelia, *Lobelia telekii*
This plant is found only in the mountains of Central and East Africa. Some can grow as tall as a tree and have huge leaves, often as wide as car tyres.

10 March 2013

Dr Michael Nee
New York Botanical Garden
Bronx NY
USA

Dear Michael,

Retirement?

You – retiring? – I don't really believe it. I can still remember the first time I met you – you had come to Cornell the visit the other Michael - Mike Whalen – when I was a fresh young graduate student just setting out on a solanaceous journey. What a pair you two were. I am glad I made the decision to work in *Solanum*, not only because it is an all-consuming pastime but also I have been able to get to know you better and work with you in various different ways. Your knowledge and experience, so freely shared, has made working in this large and complex group a real joy.

Your legendary *Solanum* dictionary – first done in a database, in the days before most of us were even using such things, and then later as a mega-Word document – helped so many of us to enter the morass of names and specimens in the genus, and formed the backbone of the PBI *Solanum* project. That project would have been so much more difficult without your generous sharing of the work that went into the 'dictionary'. I still have my original hard copy (from about 1986) -- it is a real door stop, in fact I use it to prop doors open still!

Determining *Solanum* specimens with you in various herbaria has been great – one memorable event was in Vienna at the IBC in 2005, where Jon Bennett, then a fresh post-doc on the PBI project, and I tried to keep up with you identifying types, we would database madly only to find another pile at our sides five minutes later! The legacy you leave of the well determined specimens at NY will be a help to future generations of *Solanum* workers – I am hoping to come soon to absorb some of the spiny identifications.

In spite of all our communication over *Solanum* (and other solanaceous) taxonomy, we only went in the field once together – this is odd, as we are both real field people. I guess it just means we were a bit disorganised, and/or busy. We did, however, manage to make it to Bolivia – I as a newbie to the country, and you as an old hand – in 2001. What a trip that was! Because of your encyclopaedic knowledge of the country we were able to see many species I had only seen from herbarium sheets -- my top favourites of these were *Solanum daphnophyllum* – a truly beautiful Geminata, found in a campsite, *Solanum amygdalifolium* growing out of a sewage outlet -- solanums do grow in the most peculiar places!

Two discoveries from that trip stand out in my mind though. In the woods near Huancané we looked in vain for hours for a *Solanum* Lynn Bohs and I were arguing about – was it a Geminata or a Cyphomandriopsis? You quite sensibly kept neutral. We scrambled up hills and into muddy

road banks, up trails and over cliffs. Finally, giving up, we sat down for lunch - and there it was, right across the road, a weedy little thing in the roadside scrub – Lynn described it as *Solanum clandestinum* – the hidden one. Driving up the Sud Yungas road from Huancané we had not one but TWO flat tires - you cleverly managed to get us as far as Unduavi, where we parked and rather cruelly sent Moises to La Paz to get both tires fixed. We who were left took the opportunity to search Unduavi for the enigmatic *Solanum inelegans* - described by Rusby from there in 1895 but then not collected again. You were sure it was a vine, so we looked and looked – but when we eventually found it the thing was a great tree and its affinities were clear! A good thing we had two flat tires wasn't it?

In addition to only going in the field once together, we haven't published much together either – once when we wrote up the novelties from the Bolivian trip, and again in describing *Solanum anomalostemon* S Knapp & M Nee from southern Peru. I was lucky enough to see it in the flesh in Peru last year, and it is as peculiar alive as on the herbarium sheet. Your name for it 's perfect! I am glad we described it together.

I really can't believe you will retire from botany; it will be odd for me to come to NY and not check in (if only to find you are in Bolivia or Wisconsin!) to the *Solanum* universe. Thank you for your unstinting support of me over the years, you have been a great colleague and friend. *Solanum* never really lets people go, I am sure you will still be there to argue with, at least I hope so! Don't go too far, I might need an opinion from time to time.

Best wishes in your "retirement" – have fun!! I am sure you will.....

Sandy

Sandra Knapp
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El Dr. Michael Nee, es sin duda alguna una de las personas que más conoce sobre las plantas de Bolivia, por medio de sus diversos viajes y excursiones sobre todo en la red troncal (Santa Cruz, Cochabamba y La Paz) ha podido estudiar la flora en general y con énfasis especies de sus familias favoritas, Solanaceae y Cucurbitaceae. Pero sus viajes no se limitan a estos departamentos, a lo largo de sus más de 25 años de visitas y exploraciones continuas, ha podido visitar con la excepción de Pando todos los demás departamento del territorio Boliviano, ósea conoce ocho de nueve departamentos de Bolivia.

Botánico y aventurero de vocación y siempre en compañía de su Jeep Suzuki (foto 1), fue visitando diferentes regiones y tipos de vegetación, iniciando por su área favorita los bosques siempre nublados de Siberia (foto 2), en el Parque Nacional Amboró de Santa Cruz, zona de vegetación muy peculiar donde los troncos de todos los árboles y arbustos están cubiertos de mugos y epifitas (foto 3). Pasando también por la zona de los Valles Centrales Andinos ej. Cochabamba (foto 4) donde también se puede admirar maravillas de la naturaleza como el caso de la tan nominada Puya raimondii Harrms (foto 5) la especie de Bromeliaceae más grande conocida. No podía dejar de pasar por las tierras altas con vegetación de puna seca en Potosi (foto 6). Uno de estos muy interesantes viajes en el año 2005, fue finalmente coronado con la llegada a su ansiada Tupiza (foto 7) en el Departamento de potosí cercano a la frontera con Argentina. Tupiceño de corazón, que a la pregunta, y de donde es usted Dr. Nee, su inmediata respuesta **soy Tupiceño**, aunque claro, nosotros sabíamos que el nunca antes hasta el mes de mayo del 2005 había visitado (quizá si en fotos) esta tierra pintoresca con cerros coloridos matizados entre rojo y amarillento hasta negruzco (foto 8) y valles fértiles donde la producción agrícola florece cada año; sin duda toda esta belleza escénica fue la causa de su respuesta, soy Tupiceño.

Muchas anécdotas se podrá contar; Moises toma rápido la foto que si a la nueva especie y a mí los carros nos llevaran por delante…(foto 9)

Su paso por Bolivia no será olvidado, también la justa dedicatoria de nominar especies de plantas en su nombre, como el caso de: Eryngium neei (fotos 10) Descrito por M. Mendoza. (2008), inmortaliza que Michael Nee ha sido y es una persona de importancia para el conocimiento de las plantas de Bolivia (foto 11).

J. Moises Mendoza

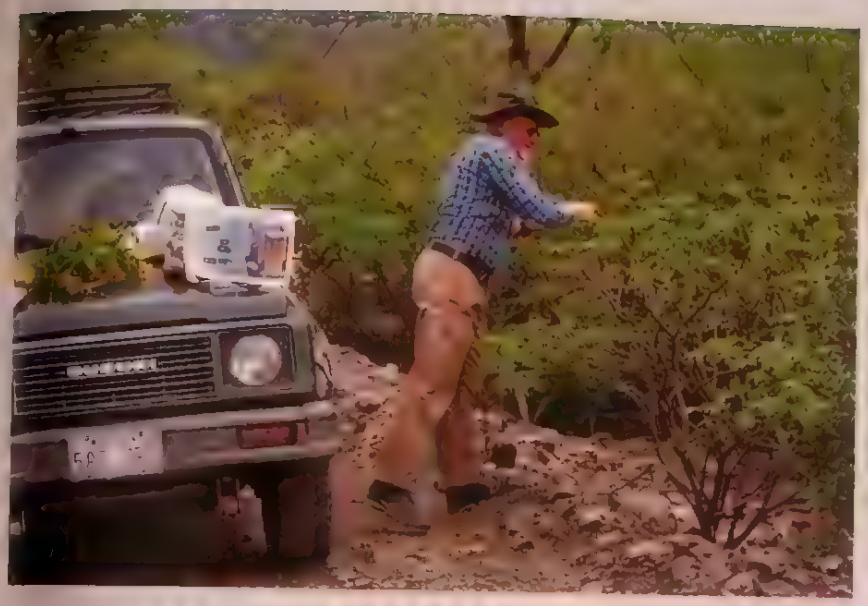


Foto 1: Bosque seco de Pampa Negra, Valles Mesotermicos. Provincia Valle grade, Santa Cruz (Enero 2011), "Hummm que interesantes plantitas hay aquí, recolectare unas muestritas.

Foto 3: Soto bosque con árboles cubiertos de musgos y epifitas en la zona de Siberia (junio 2002)

Foto 2: Bosque Siempre Nublado de Siberia. Provincia Jose Manuel Maria Caballero, Santa Cruz - Bolivia (abril 2003)

Foto 4: Valles centrales Andinos, vista cerca de Epizana, Cochabamba

photos: Moises Mendoza

Foto 5: Michael Nee y Moises Mendoza (uno de sus alumnos en Bolivia) delante de una plata de Puya raimondii Harms, Laderas de Juntuyo - Mizque, Cochabamba (2005)

Foto 6: Altiplano boliviano con vegetación de Pun seca, donde resalta los cactos columnares de Oreocereus celsianus (Salm-Dyck) A. Berger ex Riccob. (conocidos como los abuelitos)

Foto 7: Entrada al pueblo de Tupiza, la querida tierra "natal" del Dr. Nee

Foto 8: Campos de cultivos en el pintoresco valle de Tupiza, Potosi (2005)

photos: Moises Mendoza

Foto 9: Michael Nee con una especie nueva de Lycianthes, esperando la toma de una foto en carretera muy peligrosa (Villa Tunari - Cochabamba) por mucho tráfico vehicular (Moises.. aprate con la fotoooo. 2009)

Foto 10: Eryngium neei M.Mend Especie endemica a los valles centrales Bolivia, nombre dedicado en honor al Dr Michael Nee (2008)

photos: Moises Mendoza

Foto 11: Michael Nee, muy sonriente luego de una colecta exitosa de Nicotiana sp. (2003)

UNA TRAVESIA POR VALLEGRANDE CON EL DR. MICHAEL NEE

Por

Mario Saldias

Entre el 28 y 31 de diciembre del 1988 estuvimos con el Dr Mike Nee, Israel Vargas y mi persona en la provincia Vallegrande del departamento de Santa Cruz, Bolivia Viajamos para coleccionar la flora de la provincia Vallegrande, pero especialmente íbamos a colectar la palmera *Parajubaea torrally* Cabe recordar que la provincia Vallegrande corresponde a la region andina del departamento de Santa Cruz con elevaciones de aproximadamente 2000 m s.n.m..

El guía de este viaje era Israel Vargas, un estudiante universitario, oriundo de la provincia Vallegrande quien disponia de una casa de sus padres en la zona de Huasa Cañada, a unos 5 km del pueblo de Vallegrande En esta casa nos alojamos y de ahi partimos hacia una localidad llamada Palmarito, ubicada aproximadamente a unos 30 km sobre un camino poco estable por su escaso uso y por la topografia natural

El viaje fue en un pequeño jeep Daihatsu de color mostaza de propiedad del Dr Nee , por supuesto llevamos herramientas para el carro y nuestros instrumentos para la colecta de la palmera Partimos alrededor de las 9 de la mañana y a mitad del camino comenzó a llover y la temperatura a descender; llegamos a Palmarito alrededor de las dos de la tarde.

En Palmarito las palmeras de Parajuabea forman una poblacion bien evidente, pero aparentemente no habian muchos habitantes ya que no se observaban casas sobre el camino Los pobladores de Palmarito utilizaban para su transporte los burritos de carga

Al descender del jeep nos dimos cuenta que una de las ruedas traseras estaba casi desinflada, nos preocupamos poco porque el Dr Nee dijo que teníamos una rueda de auxilio, así que decidimos cambiarla al retornar de hacer la colecta de la palma Fuimos a colectar en plena lluvia y pronto retornamos empapados al carro, pero con las muestras de la palma y otras especies de la zona

El Dr. Nee sacó la goma de auxilio mientras que con Israel quitamos la goma pinchada Ingrata fue nuestra sorpresa al tratar de colocar la nueva goma ya que el hoyo de esta resulto de menor diámetro que el eje del carro, así que fue imposible cambiar la goma pinchada La única alternativa era salir caminando y cargando la goma pinchada para repararla en la localidad de Vallegrande Así lo hicimos y colocando una vara por el hoyo de la goma pinchada la cargamos entre dos en forma rotativa Por supuesto el Dr Nee en todo el trayecto no perdia el tiempo para coleccionar especímenes.

Después de una penosa caminata con subidas y bajadas, con frio y bajo la lluvia, luego en penumbras llegamos a la casa de los Vargas en Huasa Cañada alrededor de las diez de la noche Ahí nos esperaba la mamá de Israel con un buen plato de carne de cerdo al estilo vallegrandino.

Al dia siguiente un tio de Israel, nos ayudó con su camioneta para parchar nuestra goma y volver a Palmarito a recuperar nuestro jeep para retornar a la ciudad de Santa Cruz

MADISON

Michael Nee gave me my first professional job in botany, at The New York Botanical Garden. We shared an office near the orchid rotunda in the museum building. The new herbarium had recently been built, but Michael maintained the look and feel of the old museum – in our office. It was a maze of specimen cabinets, slide collections, plant presses, and logs waiting to be shipped to the U.S. national wood collection. It was a microcosm of the botanical world, including our own library with a complete set of Moldenke's Phytologia, back issues of the journal of the Northeastern Nut Growers Association, and everything ever published by John Silba. The number of specimen cabinets was large enough for us to appeal to Pat Holmgren to grant us our own herbarium acronym. I think MESS would have been appropriate.

If you don't know him, Michael Nee is the archetypal herbarium rat, and an insatiable collector. He is rumored to have collected the flowers off of his own Grandmother's grave. Not only do his vascular plant collections exceed 50,000 numbers, he collects other things too. He is a member of the International Brick Collector's Society. Though he told he was waiting to move out of his 5th floor apartment before he added more accessions to his personal brick collection.

His commitment to archiving botanical miscellanea was unrivaled. The Garden has a large number of protologs that were copied by stenographers onto onionskin paper and glued to specimen folders. Michael spent hours carefully removing these and re-mounting them on archival paper, often at the expense of meeting other deadlines. He strived for the highest quality when digitizing photographs or 35mm slides. This backfired when the footprint taken up by the DVDs in his digital repository surpassed the physical size of the original slide collection. He often worked standing, or if he sat down with a manuscript he would prop it up on one of the cardboards used to bundle specimens. The cardboard would end up covered in notes written while solving nomenclatural problems in the manuscript to the point where the cardboard would have to be archived. "Don't ever throw one of these away," he warned me early on, holding up a cardboard covered in dates and authors names.

Michael was extremely thrifty, and managed to wear the same sweater for first ten years that I knew him. It was sleeveless, mustard colored, and sewn up with white thread along one of the shoulders. I used to make fun of him for it behind his back until someone pointed out that I also wore the same sweater every day. The two us worked long hours and most weekends, stopping only to take quick naps on the old camping mat in the back corner surrounded by 30 year old unmounted sterile indets left over from the Projeto Dinamica Biologica de Fragmentos Florestais and the Flora of Veracruz. On occasion Michael would pull some crumbling legume out from one of these folders and spend the afternoon finding the right name for it.

Michael was very generous to students, especially to those with limited resources. On several occasions he procured funds to bring South American students to the U.S. in order to gain exposure to North American botany. What the students don't realize is that Michael's idea of exposing students to North American botany meant taking the Amtrak from New York to St. Luis so that they could see "what some good agricultural land looks like." Later he would tell me he was disappointed that they just watched movies the whole time when they could have been getting a "proper education."

He generally maintains an outwardly serious demeanor, so you might be surprised to learn that Michael quickly melts at the site of something cute and cuddly. A few years back he became obsessed with the cartoon characters in the movie Shrek. I think he watched Shrek and Shrek II over 30 times each. One of the two movies was left playing on his laptop everywhere we went – in the hotel room before attending the systematics symposium at the Missouri Botanical Garden, in the herbarium at the Field Museum while annotating specimens. I was glad when its charm finally waned for him, the rest of us were getting kind of embarrassed.

Twice he brought me to Bolivia to collect plants for our project on the Flora of Parque Nacional Amboró. Michael taught me everything essential about conducting field work in the tropics – at least from his perspective. Some of these lessons could be particularly mind-numbing. Like his lecture on the difference between taking color photographs of large fruits in the sun versus in the shade, and how problems can occur in both situations. This lecture was repeated several times to make sure that I understood all of the details. Another oft-repeated lecture was on the history of database generated specimen labels, and how none of them ever reported the date correctly. He did have a point, I have to admit.

Some of his lessons though were more like the kind inflicted by an older sibling: One day in Bolivia I bought some boiled corn and home-made cheese from a roadside vendor while we were stopped at a toll booth. Rather than warm me about potential food poisoning, Mike waited for me to take a few bites of my snack and then said, while smiling "eat on the road, shit on the side of the highway."

Later on he left me for two days alone at a remote field station. Alone that is, except for an unusually jumpy and aggravated machete-wielding local whose mouth so stuffed with coca leaves his Spanish was indecipherable. We tried to communicate with him but couldn't make out a word he was saying. Michael turned to me before he left and said "Well, good luck. By the way, have you ever seen that movie deliverance?"

Thanks for the memories Michael. I could not have had a better mentor.

Michael Sundue

The Pringle Herbarium

March, 2013

photos: Michael Sundue

photos: Michael Sundue

26 February 2013

I will always be extremely grateful, Michael, for the generous opportunity you provided for me to finally see the species I wrote about in my Ph.D. dissertation in the field for the first time! It fulfilled a dream that lasted from 1979 to 2007 when you and I searched in one of the centers of diversity of the Malvaceae for these wonderful species, and found every one. I will never forget it, nor your generosity and kindness to me on this foray.

Steve Hill

Examples of Labels

1. Minimal Label Data

The New York Botanical Garden
Cultivated Plants of **U.S.A.**

Pinaceae *Pinus wallichiana*

New York, Bronx Co., Cultivated specimen trees near the Kennedy Gate, at New York Botanical Garden, Bronx.

Large tree 80 cm. in diameter. Bark rather light and orangish. Accession no. "80219A T. C. Lewis, NY".

Coll.: M. Nee 50119 26 March 1999

2. Average Label Data

The New York Botanical Garden
Plants of **U.S.A.**

Asteraceae *Aster*

SOUTH DAKOTA, Mead Co., 2 miles S of Faith, around Durkee Lake.
44°58.96'N, 102°03.06'W.
Grazed grassland with a few cultivated trees and shrubby areas near the lake, *Ulmus americana*, *Populus deltoides*.

Rays white, with slight violet tinge; disc yellow.

Coll.: M. Nee & D. Atha 51043 27 Sept. 2000

3. Specialized label data

The New York Botanical Garden
Plants of **U.S.A.**

Cucurbitaceae *Echinocystis lobata* (Michx.) Torrey & A. Gray
det. M. Nee, 2000

Wisconsin, Richland Co., 3 miles SE of Richland Center. T 10 N; R 1 E; SE1/4 SW1/4 Sect. 25.

Ungrazed forest of *Quercus alba*, *Acer rubrum*, *Ulmus rubra*, *Carya cordiformis*, selectively logged several years ago and canopy opened enough to allow dense thickets of *Rubus occidentalis*, *R.* cf. *alleghaniensis*.

Vine over saplings and logs. Casual here, not to be expected in unlogged forest and only one large plant seen here. Fruit with bristles, but these not offensively stiff or sharp, mottled green and pale green, almost greenish white, spongy-juicy, with little taste but apparently not at all bitter; fruit opening irregularly from the tip, the segments recurving; ripe seeds brown, about the color of dead leaves on the ground, only gradually falling from the fruit, the inside of the fruit still juicy.

Coll.: M. Nee 51028 24 Sept. 2000

4. Good Label Data

The New York Botanical Garden
Plants of **BOLIVIA**

Euphorbiaceae *Sebastiania*

Depto. Santa Cruz, Prov. Warnes, near future "Urbanización Belgica Chica", 11 km. by dirt road E of main highway from Santa Cruz to Warnes, 10 km (by air) SE of Warnes.
17°35'S, 63°04'W. alt. 340 m.
Flat sandy pastures and roadsides, apparently originally savanna or scrubby woodland; with *Acrocomia aculeata*, *Zanthoxylum rigidum*, *Celtis ehrenbergiana*, *Sapium haematospermum*

Erect herbs, or the larger plants with slender woody stems at base, to 8 dm. tall. Abundant in pasture. Inflorescence erect, yellow-green, somewhat reddish in some plants.

Coll.: M. Nee 51079 31 Oct. 2000

- Information should be grouped in a logical way and easy to read.
- The name of the home institution should be at the bottom or top of the label, it indicates where the first set of collections are to be found, where collection books and other notes might be deposited, etc. It should not overshadow the locality where the plant was collected

- The name of the family, genus, and species (however much is known) should go together; the name of the determiner generally is used only when the plant is named to the species level; the name of the determiner belongs here next to what was determined.
- The country could go either at the top of the label, or in front of the principal political division. Missouri Botanical Garden labels put the only the country on the top line, and the institution at the bottom, and this is a very useful convention for sorting and curating purposes.
- The words "County", "Provincia", etc., or their abbreviations **must** be attached to secondary and lower political divisions (areas) in order to differentiate them from localities (points). In the United States only two states, can be confused with a prominent city: Washington vs. Washington, D.C. and New York vs. New York City, but in other countries many of the major political divisions are also the names of prominent cities: e.g. in Mexico most states are named after their capital city, e.g. Veracruz, Oaxaca, Puebla, Guanajuato, Durango, San Luis Potosí, México. In some countries, such as Mexico, **all** of the municipios (the third level of political division) are named after the capital town.
- Localities should be in a logical sequence, preferably, as in most publications, from largest to smallest, i.e. country, state, county, distance and direction from town, local landmark (cemetery, bridge, etc.).
- The distance by the available routes of communication as well as a straight line distance from a stable locality should be included.
- Latitude and longitude (preferably) or another well-understood and widely used coordinate system should be used whenever possible. With the availability of handheld GPS, there is no excuse for not including this data. Two systems might be included, e.g. in most of the United States a latitude/longitude reading might be taken from a GPS, but the town-range-section is far more useful in the field when using topographic or other maps.
- Units of latitude and longitude should be obvious. It is now possible to print the degree character; minutes and seconds should not be separated by commas as if they were decimal units, unless decimal lat/long is being used. e.g. 27°18'33"S is unequivocal, as is 27°18.88'. On the other hand 27.18.33 is ambiguous.
- Habitat data is highly useful. If known, a list of the most **dominant** and or **characteristic** species for a habitat is highly recommended, as this list can define the habitat more exactly than any classification, see, for example, F. Swink, 1974, *Plants of the Chicago Region*.
- Data on the plant itself is highly desirable, especially for characters which are useful in differentiating species within a genus. It may seem self evident that your *Aster* has white rays with a slight violet tinge and a yellow disc, but when working in the herbarium with many taxa, this information may be vital. You would be surprised how hard it's to determine from herbarium material such basic biological data as flower color or orientation of flowers or fruits.
- Common names are to be taken only from information provided by local informants, not copied out of a book. The same can be said for any other item of information—i.e. the label should be a source only of original observations.
- The tradition in publications and on labels is to cite the collectors as *M. Nee 1234* or *M. Nee & D. Atha 345* or *M. Nee, D. Atha & D. McClelland 3456*. The collection number is automatically to be associated with the first collector. It is entirely unnecessary and certainly highly confusing to intercalate the number between the collectors, such as *M. Nee 3456 with D. Atha & D. McClelland*, or *C. Linnaeus & P. Kalm 45?1 and C. P. Thunberg*, arrangements which would have to be edited for most publications. A convention often used in the past is to put "No. 51079" on a line above family and species, separating it from the collector(s), and this can be useful.

An example of the confusion that can occur: the following examples are from the series of articles by different authors on the new genus and species, *Obolinga zanonii* Barneby (=*Cojoba zanonii* (Barneby) Barneby & J. W. Grimes), in *Brittonia* 41(2), 1989.

Label:	George R. Proctor No. 39088 with Miguel Marte & Andrés Polanco	
Brittonia (p. 172)	*G. R. Proctor* (with *M. Marte & A. Palanco*) *39088*	

Label:	30453 T. Zanoni, R. García	[near top of label] [bottom of label]
Brittonia (p. 172)	*Zanoni* (with *R. Garcia*) *30453*	

Label:	38686 T. Zanoni, J. Pimentel, R. García	[near top of label] [bottom of label]
Brittonia (p. 172)	*Zanoni, Pimentel & Garcia 38686*	

Label:	35610 T. Zanoni, R. García	[near top of label] [bottom of label]

Brittonia (p. 172) *Zanoni* (with *R. Garcia*) *35610*
(p. 178) *Zanoni & Garcia 35610*

Label: 36296 [near top of label]
T. Zanoni & R. García [bottom of label]

Brittonia (p. 178) *Zanoni & Garcia 36296*

Not only have different authors had different ways of interpreting the same label information, one author intercalated the "(with *R Garcia*)" into citations where it was not originally present, following the example of labels where it was These examples only scratches the surface of the illogical confusion that has invaded labelling and citation. The format such as

George R. Proctor No. 39088
with Miguel Marte & Andrés Polanco

was originally only a method for writing collectors and their numbers in the infancy of computers, databases and printers Many artifacts of the early years of computing have been mercifully eliminated, e g printing labels with all upper case letters and writing zeros as "O, other formatting which contradicts long-established conventions in print should also be abandoned on labels.

- Listing collectors in vertical array can lead to confusion and should be avoided, e.g.
  Coll.: C. Linnaeus 4321
  P. Kalm
  C. P. Thunberg
- Assigning separate numbers to two or more of the collectors on the label is only good for egos but is to be highly discouraged in scientific practice, e.g. *C. S. Rafinesque 1234, R. A. Estudiante 12 & N. L Principiante 27.*
- It is entirely unnecessary to add "*et al*" to the list of collectors on a label, using "*et al*" is a space-saving convention in **publications** indicating that more collectors were cited on the original label, and that this information can be expected to be found there Putting "et al" on the label is meaningless since the identity of the additional "et. al." is not available anywhere.
- A label should not have initials of the first collector added to the number, e g C S *Rafinesque CSR 1234* for C S *Rafinesque 1234*, this is a recent convention which is necessary only on the **newspaper** before the collections are processed in order to avoid confusion of different collectors with the same range of collection numbers especially of the low range of numbers shared by many students
- Databases and programming are simple enough that the names which are stored in data bases should be written on labels in the standard and logical order, i e C S Rafinesque, not Rafinesque C S In the case of Spanish names, the inverse order is hopelessly confusing, i e Israel Geraldo Vargas Caballero is correctly abbreviated as I G Vargas C, not Vargas, I G C or some other confusing permutation
- Writing names in all capital letters is unnecessary, and in languages which use diacritical marks it can create ambiguity One not familiar with Portuguese would interpret GUIMARAES as Guimaraes not the correct **Guimarães**, and one not familiar with Spanish would interpret IBANEZ as Ibanez, not the correct **Ibáñez** If Michael Anthony Nee were to be written NEE MA, NEE, MA, or MA NEE, all of these could be interepreted as perfectly ordinary Chinese names, with either NEE **or** MA as the surname!
- The date should **always** be written so as to be unambiguous Dates such as "**11/4/06**" are nearly impossible to understand, as they could be interpreted as:
  11 April 1906 (when old collections are labelled with new printers it is impossible to be sure of even the century)
  11 April 2006 (the normal convention outside the U.S.A.)
  4 November 1906
  4 November 2006 (the normal convention in the United States)
  6 April 1911 (in some countries and in situations where it sorts more conveniently in databases)
  etc.

The Perfect Label

Inspired by the knowledge that the "Perfect Country Song" must include references to pick up trucks, Mama, beer, the Bible, broken hearts hunting, Dixie and prison, I would like to submit the following model of the "Perfect Label"

Chas. Goessl. 1918

THE "TOWNS-END STIFF BRANDYGEE" HERBARIUM AND MUSEUM
BARBECUE JUNCTION STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
5533 LONGWOOD GARDENS LANE
FORT BENJAMIN HARRISON, INDIANA 32339-4519
PHONE (330) 893-4183[1]

Plants from Exotic Places: State of Aguas Calientes[2]
Exploration in the Great Southwestern Deserts[3]

198[4] Brassicaceae C. F. von Schelchtendal

E. L. Green and P. A. Rydberg[6] no. A-1909-77[7]

Berbarea vulgaris[8] (Robert Brown ex Alphonse Pyramus De Candolle in Karl Friedrick Philipp von Martius) Julian Alfred Steyermark and Paul Carpenter Standley [9]

Plant collected[10] on right side of road and 500 feet from interesting rock[11], "Camp Chigger"[12], 184 miles[13] from Monterrey, Comaltepec, Huitzilpac[14], Mexico. Leaves alternate. Flowers big.[15] Humid woods with fog. [16]

Determined by Alonso Wood[17]
Collected by E. L. Green and C. S. Rafinesque no. 1234[18] w/[19] Otto Kuntze* accompanied by P. A. Rydberg 9/2/11[20]

---

*Also along: L. Croizat, a bunch of students, and you might count Billie Turner, but he was mostly just looking at the women, et al

PLANTS COLLECTED WITH THE HELP OF THE BARBECUE JUNCTION STATI TEACHERS COLLEGE CONTINGENCY FUND GRANT NO. 348-444822-AS38, TO P A. RYDBERG; WE SOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE CURATOR OF THI HERBARIUM, Mr. Robert Knud Friedrich Pilger who suggested the trip, (and thanks, Mom for all the help in the early years!).[21]

1. Be sure to make the name of your institution very prominent, certainly more prominent and easy to find than the country where you collected the plant, after all, your institution footed the bill and it's a lot of work to look something up in *Index Herbariorum*. And look how impressively large your labels can be!

2. Be sure to separate the political divisions so they have to be re-edited for specimen citation in publications, and remember to spell things the way you think they should be spelled and not to bother with the Mexican spelling.

3. Aguascalientes may not be precisely in southwestern Mexico, but everyone should know that deserts in the **United States** are in the southwest, just check *Arizona Highways*.

4. This is the family number in the Townsend Stiff Brandygee Herbarium, and if people don't understand that merely from the position on the label and mistake it for a collection number, tough *Musa sapientum*.

5. If you put the authors of all the family names or generic names on the labels, you will surely demonstrate your superior erudition.

6. Make sure you have the collectors listed in two ways in at least two different places on the label so the monographer or databaser will have to decide how to cite them, and no two will cite them alike; you can always send an irate letter later saying that it is obvious to you that it is a *P. A. Rydberg* number, not *Greene et al.*

7. Try to invent an interesting and complicated way of numbering and start a new series of overlapping numbers frequently. Plain old unequivocal consecutive numbers are not on the cutting edge of science.

8. Don't worry too much about misidentifying specimens, nor about mis-spelling them so that *Willis' Dictionary*, *The Plant Book* or *IPNI* can't put the genus to family, either; "family indets." in the herbarium are fun to go through on a rainy day.

9. Show your erudition; you can dwarf the species name by not abbreviating the authorities and adding all the extraneous material possible, remember that the authorities had interesting lives, and besides, did a plant species ever make it into *People* magazine?

10. Be sure to let the people know that this is a **plant** and that you **collected** it, how could they tell just from the fact that the specimen is in front of them? This will help fill up the label.

11. Little personal touches are nice on a label.

12. Well, maybe "Camp Chigger" isn't on any map ever made or cited in any book ever published, but there sure were a lot of chiggers the one night you camped there!

13. If anyone is really interested in this plant and where it was collected, they can call you up to find out which direction it is from Monterrey, besides they should know that you were on your way to Acapulco and would have been on Hwy. Mex. 54 and not that pothole hell of a Hwy. Mex. 57. If you're not sure your rental vehicle was measuring 184 miles or 184 kilometers, don't worry; latitude and longitude are tough enough to figure out anyway.

14. No, this wasn't collected in the town of Huitzilpac, down in the wooded valley by the river, but way up high in the barren moutains 50 km away somewhere in the Municipality of Huitzilpac; you should know that if the names comes right before the name of the country, Mexico, on **my** labels it means the huge political division the size of Rhode Island and not the capital of that municipio.

15. If you wanted to know what the plant looked like, you'd check the literature; too much detail on this particular plant won't leave room on the label for all the valuable data.

16. Habitat data is easier to remember if it is impressionistic. I know that deserts are usually hot and dry, but it was raining that morning. Too bad it's so hard to catch the "Wind Chill Factor" on Mexican radio, or I would have put that on, too.

17. A cardinal rule of a good label is to put "Determined by" next to the line where it can most easily be camouflaged and cause confusion. This keeps researchers awake as they search around the label for the identification of the plant, with which this determination is so intimately to be associated.

18. If someone on the collecting team feels like he needs more numbers, let him put his number in the middle of the muddle, too.

19. Don't be bound by a hundred and fifty year's worth of tradition and resort to mundane ", " and " & ". Abbreviations like "w." or "le h-" are especially worthwhile, won't it drive 'em nuts when they can't find the abbreviation in their dictionaries or don't even know what language dictionary to look it up in? Ha, ha!

20. **Everyone** knows that with a name like Rydberg he must have been Jewish and therefore used the Israeli system so that "9.2.11" means February 11, 1909. So what's the problem, already?

21. Be sure that the acknowledgements are a prominent part of the label, or they won't give you any more money to go out and make more wonderful collections!

Michael has been an inspiration to many students throughout his career both as an advisor and informally. The sample below gives a clear indication of their gratitude. Being the great, great, great academic grandson of Adolf Engler and with a direct academic line back to Linnaeus, Michael has a rich academic heritage which he has passed along.

In my undergraduate days (1980 & 1982) I worked for Mike at Field Museum. I am deeply appreciative of his mentorship, for setting me on the path of Portulacaceae, and for providing the opportunity for my first publications (Ford & Burger, 1983, Ford 1986).

- Donna Ford-Werntz

Dr. Nee was always patient, always quietly funny, always wise, and almost always right. It was a great honor to work with him at NY.

- Amanda Neill

For my graduate education at The New York Botanical Garden, I am deeply indebted to Michael with whom I have traveled to some of the farthest reaches of the world. A kinder more giving mentor I could not have found. He is always willing to share the skills and knowledge he has accumulated over a lifetime dedicated to botany and other academic pursuits. I do not regret a moment we have spent together, and though the event of this scrapbook is his retirement, I look forward to many more happy times in the field and the herbarium.

- Donald McClelland

Michael Nee is the preeminent taxonomist of the family Solanaceae at this time. Michael's first major work on this family was his PhD dissertation on *Solanum* section *Acanthophora* Dunal, completed in 1979. Over the decades to follow, he went on to broaden his research within *Solanum* and Solanaceae and made many contributions to the taxonomic community. What follows are but a few of these contributions.

For 29 years, Michael curated The New York Botanical Garden's collection of Solanaceae, which includes the largest collection of *Solanum* in the world. The collection of New World species of *Solanum* is organized following his "Synopsis of *Solanum* in the New World", published in 1999, which provided an extensive subgeneric classification for these species. The thousands of hours Michael spent determining specimens, incorporating new specimens, and working through taxonomic problems, has made the collection priceless. In many other herbaria around the world he has similarly identified specimens and organized collections. Since 1982, in the process of his taxonomic studies, Michael has named twenty-five species in Solanaceae.

Michael has also made contributions through his role as an editor. From 1991 to 2001, Michael served as the editor of the Solanaceae Newsletter, and he was one of the editors of the proceedings of two International Solanaceae Congresses, *Solanaceae III Taxonomy, Chemistry, and Evolution* (1991) and *Solanaceae IV Advances in Biology and Utilization* (1999).

Over many years, Michael compiled an exhaustive list of names for species of *Solanum*. With perhaps 1400 species and over 5000 names in the genus, this was no small feat. Furthermore, this list has been indispensible for all recent workers to address taxonomic problems in *Solanum*. With his long and distinguished career as a solanologist, it is safe to say that no one knows the taxonomy of *Solanum* better than Michael Nee. We are all indebted to Michael for his lifetime's work.

Species of Solanaceae named by Michael

Brunfelsia plowmaniana Filipowicz & M. Nee – PhytoKeys 10: 84, fig. 1, map. 2012.

Capsicum caballeroi M. Nee – Brittonia 58: 323, fig. 1. 2006.

Capsicum ceratocalyx M. Nee – Brittonia 58: 326, fig. 2. 2006.

Jaltomata propinqua (Miers) Mione & M. Nee – Brittonia 45: 143. 1993.

Jaltomata umbellata (Ruiz & Pav.) Mione & M. Nee – Brittonia 45: 144. 1993.

Jaltomata viridiflora (H.B.K.) M. Nee & Mione – Brittonia 45: 141. 1993.

Solanum adenobasis M. Nee & Farruggia – J. Bot. Res. Inst. Texas 4: 598. 2010.

Solanum anomalostemon S. Knapp & M. Nee – Novon 192: 178. 2009.

Solanum aparadense L. A. Mentz & M. Nee – Pesquisas, Bot. 53: 170. 2003.

Solanum citrinum M. Nee – Brittonia 34: 85. 1982.

Solanum comarapanum M. Nee – Brittonia 58: 345. 2006.

Solanum complectens M. Nee & G. J. Anderson – Brittonia 58: 328. 2006.

Solanum costatum M. Nee – Newsl. 4: 74. 2001.

Solanum cyathophorum M. Nee & Farruggia – J. Bot. Res. Inst. Texas 4: 596. 2010.

Solanum jabrense Agra & M. Nee – Brittonia 49: 350. 1997.

Solanum moxosense M. Nee – Brittonia 58: 339. 2006.

Solanum muricum M. Nee – Novon 4: 285. 1994.

Solanum muricum M. Nee – Novon 4: 285. 1994.

Solanum pedemontanum M. Nee – Brittonia 58: 341. 2006.

Solanum saturatum M. Nee – Brittonia 58: 348. 2006.

Solanum scuticum M. Nee – Brittonia 58: 350. 2006.

Solanum semotum M. Nee – Bol. Mus. Paraense "Emilio Goeldi," N.S., Bot. 7: 515. 1991.

Solanum setosissimum Bitter ex L. A. Mentz & M. Nee – Pesquisas, Bot. 53: 164. 2003.

Solanum verecundum M. Nee – Kurtziana 28: 137. 2000.

Solanum whalenii M. Nee – Brittonia 58: 353. 2006.

New Caledonia. photo: Donald McClelland

New Caledonia

New Caledonia

Paris Herbarium

Kew Herbarium

photos: Donald McClelland

Bolivia

photos: Donald McClelland

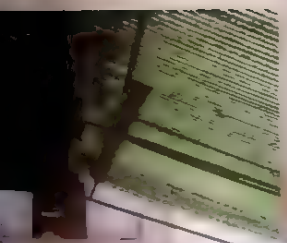


photo: Donald McClelland

Estimado Daniel,

aqui van fotos del Dr. Nee en sus visitas a Santa Cruz por los años 94 y 98. La foto de la cena era para el cumpleaños de la Lic. Teresa Centurión en el 94, también la otra foto grupal fue para la formación de la Sociedad Boliviana de Botánica en el nuevo Jardín Botánico el 1994. Las otras dos fotos en el campo son cuando el dio un curso sobre botánica sistemática para la UAGRM si no me equivoco en el 1998.

Mis palabras son de agradecimiento para el Dr. Michael Nee por haber apoyado a mejorar nuestro conocimiento sobre las plantas de Bolivia y por toda la paciencia para compartir sus conocimientos.

Espero que el libro salga muy lindo!

Saludos desde Santa Cruz de la Sierra!

Marisol Toledo

Hola,

Se jubilará de NY, pero no se va abandonar la botánica. De eso, no tengo duda. Parece que el está Santa Cruz, y lastimosamente no estoy. Debe tener fotos, creo que tengo uno desde los año 80, pero será en mis colecciones de slides que está en Santa Cruz (y no conmigo).

El mejor anécdota que he escuchado de Mike, es cuando estaba en una expedición a una tapi en Venezuela con Otto Huber y una decena de científicas prestigiosas de diferentes instituciones. El clima no permitió que venga un helicóptero para sacarles de allá. Pues, les falto comida, pero Mike, el gran botánico, les recomendó que comen una baya de un arbusto de del genero Vaccinium (blue berry) y, obviamente, todo el mundo lo hizo, pues tenía hambre. Resulta que esté especia tenía un alcaloide toxico y todo el mundo se durmió, menos Michael que comió muy poco. Afortunadamente, el impacto del químico fue leve y todo el mundo recupero.

Saludos a Michael Nee,

Tim Killeen

Entre las anecdotas que he pasado con el Dr. Nee durante los viajes de campo en el que he tenido el privilegio de acompañarlo, el primero que se me viene a la mente es la vez en que viajamos en busca de Araliáceas con la Profesora Jun Wen (Smithsonian Institution) y Saúl Altamirano (Herbario Forestal Martín Cárdenas). El área en que estábamos colectando fue la zona del Locotal (bosques nublados entre Cochabamba y Villatunari) la cual al finalizar el día se llena de una niebla muy densa. Ese viaje, al igual que tantos otros fue realizado en el Suzuki Samurai del Dr Nee (su fiel compañera de colectas), sin embargo, en esa ocasión descubrimos que los faroles de la inmortal Samurai no eran muy eficaces para ese tipo de fenómenos ambientales. Sin embargo, aparentemente en ese momento al Dr Nee no le importó, ya que siguió conduciendo con una seguridad que nos dejó asombrados a Saúl y a mí que íbamos en el asiento trasero. Al notar tanta seguridad al hacer las maniobras en la carretera Saúl comenta "*Dr. Nee, usted tiene vista de águila para poder saber dónde están las curvas y los camiones estacionados*" a lo que el Dr. Nee responde con una voz un tanto entrecortada diciendo "*Pero si no estoy viendo nada ...*". Esa respuesta la entendió hasta Jun Wen que no hablaba una palabra de castellano.

Aprovecho también esta oportunidad para expresar mis más sinceros sentimientos de cariño, respeto y admiración hacia el Dr. Nee, ya que ha sido una de las personas que más me ha apoyado durante mi formación académica, y mediante su ejemplo me ha enseñado que el conocimiento no es nada si no se tiene humidad.

Adjunto una foto del primer panel que he presentado en un congreso, el cual fue gracias al incentivo del Dr. Nee La foto fue en República Dominicana durante el congreso latinoamericano de Botánica (2006).

Daniel Villarroel Segarra

FLORA PRELIMINAR Y CARACTERIZACION
INTRODUCCION

Myrsinaceae ***Ardisia neei*** Lundell, Wrightia 5: 287. 1976 Type: Panama. Prov. Panama: along El Llano-carti Rd, 8 km N of Pan. Am. Hwy. at El Llano, ca. 450 m, 5 Mar 1974, *M. Nee & R. Warmbrodt 10335* (holotype: Tex-LL; isotypes: BM, CAS, DUKE, K, MEXU, MO, NY).

Vitaceae ***Cissus neei*** Croat, Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 63: 359, fig. 1. 1976 Type: Panama. Prov Panama: El Llano-Cartí road, 7–12 km from Inter American Highway, vicinity of Gorgas Laboratory Mosquito Control Project site no 1, 300–400 m, 18 Jul 1974, *T Croat 25084* (holotype: MO; isotypes: COL, F, K, NY, PMA, S, US, VEN).

Rubiaceae ***Coussarea neei*** Dwyer, Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 67: 132 1980. Type: Panama. Prov. Veraguas: 6–7 km W of Santa Fé, new road past agricultural school, 2900 ft, 17 Feb 1974, *M. Nee 9820* (holotype: MO-2241791; isotype: MO-2241792).

Asclepiadaceae ***Cynanchum neei*** Morillo, Ernstia 51: 5 (fig.). 1989. Type: Venezuela Amazonas: Depto. Rio Negro, Cerro de La Neblina, Camp VII, 5 km NE of Pico Phelps (–Neblina), along stream (Cano Gardner) bottom of valley, downstream from camp, 00º50'45''N, 65º55'10''W, 1725 m, 3 Feb 1985, *M Nee 30728* (holotype: VEN; isotypes: F, K, P, US).

Dilleniaceae ***Davilla neei*** Aymard, Novon 17: 284, fig. 3. 2007. Type: Brazil. Amazonas: Manaus, Rodovia BR 174, Km 64, 23 km E on ZF3, FAzenda Esteio, "Projeto Dinâmica Biológica de Fragmentos", 02°24'S, 59º52'W, 29 Jan 1992, *M Nee 42366* (holotype. INPA; isotypes: NY, PORT, US).

Lomariopsidaceae ***Elaphoglossum neeanum*** A. Rojas, Revista Biol Trop 51: 40, fig. 5. 2003. Type: Panama. Prov. Darién: middle slopes on W side of Cerro Pirre, 7º56'N, 77º45'W, 800-1050 m, 29 Jun 1988, *T. Croat 68931* (holotype: MO).

Lomariopsidaceae ***Elaphoglossum* neei** M. Kessler & Mickel, Brittonia 58: 111, fig. 6A E. 2006. Type: Bolivia. Depto La Paz: Murillo. Trail from Estancia Islani Bajo to water intake for hydroelectric projects along Río Chuchulluni, 1 km W of Estancia Islani Bajo and Planta Hidroeléctrica Jarca, 16°05'S, 68°03'W, Alt. 1700–2050 m, 18 Jun 1998, *M. Nee & L. Bohs 49764* (holotype: NY; isotypes: LPB, MO, USZ, UT).

Apiaceae ***Eryngium neei*** M Mend., Candollea 63. 7, fig. 1 2008. Type: Bolivia. Depto. Santa Cruz: Prov. J. M. Caballero. Comunidad Siberia, ca. 1-2 km arriba del pueblo de Siberia, sobre un caminto vecinal, entrando hacia el Parque Nacional Amboro. 17°49.36'S, 64°45.14'W, 3001 m, 26 Mar 2004, *M Mendoza & S. Acebo 907* (holotype: USZ; isotype: K, LPB, NY).

Lecythidaceae ***Eschweilera neei*** S. A. Mori, Fl Neotrop. Monogr. 21(2): 183 1990. Type: Panama. Prov. Panama: vic. Altos de Pacora, 15–20 km ENE Cerro Azul, 800 m, 30 Jun 1975, *S. Mori, K. Dumont & S. Carpenter 6905* (holotype: NY; isotypes: COL, F, K, MO, PMA, US).

Fabaceae ***Lonchocarpus neei*** M Sousa, Novon 15: 592 (figs 2 3). 2005. Type: Bolivia. Depto Santa Cruz: Prov. Florida, 3 km SW of Angostura, gorge of Río Piraí, along small side stream on N side of canyon and highway, 18 10 S, 63.33 W, 700 m, 27 Dec 1992, *M Nee & I Vargas 43376* (holotype: MEXU; isotypes: NY, USZ).

Asteraceae ***Mikania neei*** W C Holmes, Phytologia 58. 165. 1985. Type: Veracruz: Mpio Catemaco: E side of entrance of Laguna de Sontecomapan into the Gulf of Mexico, 7 km NE of Sontecomapan, 18°33'30" N, 94°59' W, 0–50 m, 1 Nov 1981, *M. Nee 22565* (holotype: TEX).

Asteraceae ***Oyedaea neei*** Pruski, Compositae Newslett 34: 5, fig. 1. 1999. Type: Bolivia. Depto. Santa Cruz: Prov. Florida, 4 km N of center of Samaipata, 18º08'S, 63º52'W, 2000–2100 m, 31 Dec 1992, *M. Nee & I. Vargas 43442* (holotype: US; isotypes: LPB, NY, USZ).

Myrsinaceae ***Parathesis neei*** Lundell, Wrightia 7. 247. 1983. Type: Mexico. Veracruz: along dirt road 9 km E of Tebanca (9 km E of east side of Lago Catemaco) and 0.6 km W of Bastonal lumber camp, 980 m, 15 Jan 1981, *M Nee & G Schatz 19872* (holotype: F; isotype (frag of holotype): Tex/LL).

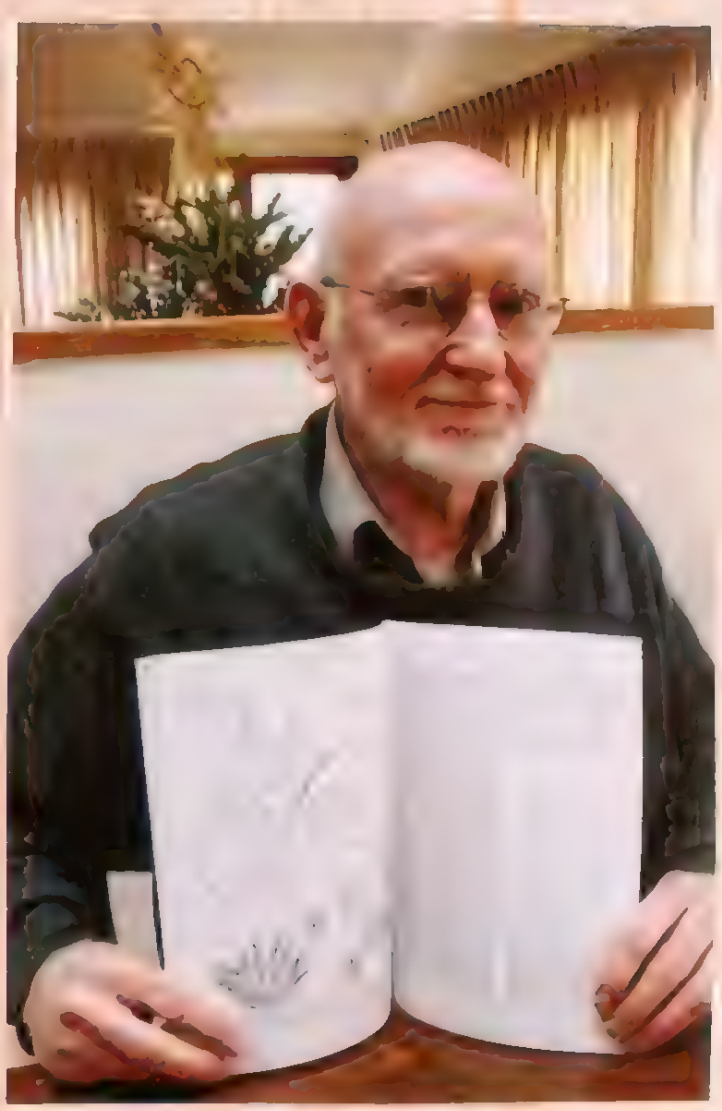
Malvaceae ***Pavonia neei*** Fryxell, Fl. Neotrop. Monogr. 76: 153 (fig. 53). 1999. Type: Bolivia: Depto. Santa Cruz: Prov. Andrés Ibáñez, 12 km E of center of Santa Cruz on road to Cotoca, 17°46'S, 63°04'W, 375 m, 13 Jan 1988, *M Nee 35916* (holotype: TEX-375784; isotypes: CAA, CM, CTES, MO, NY, TEX-375785).

Sapindaceae ***Serjania neei*** Acev. Rodr., Brittonia 49. 498, fig 1997 Type: Bolivia. Depto. Santa Cruz: Prov. Andrés Ibáñez, 10 km E of Cotoca, along Quebrada Quitachiyú, 2 km S of Cotoca Pailas highway, 17º44'45''S, 62º54'W, 350 m, 27 Jul 1994, *M Nee 45376* (holotype: US; isotypes: LPB, MO, NY, USZ).

Solanaceae ***Solanum neei*** Chiarini & L A. Mentz, PhytoKeys 18: 2. 2012. Type: Argentina Misiones: Depto. Guaraní, Predio Guaraní, Tramo I, 26°54–59'S, 54°12–18'W, 16 Oct 2002, *S. G. Tressens, H. Keller, V. Maruñak, V. Revilla & F. Robledo 6749* (holotype: CORD-6750, isotype: CTES).

Symplocaceae ***Symplocos neei*** B. Stahl, Candollea 50. 449. 1995. Type: Bolivia. Depto. Santa Cruz: Prov. Vallegrande, ca. 6 km. S of Abra Tablas on road to Los Sitanos, ca. 1 km. N of Lagunillas and 5 km. N of Khasa Monte; 18° 39' S, 64° 02' W, 2425 m, 26 Dec 1989, *M Nee 38403* (holotype: NY; isotypes CAS, LPB, MO, S, USZ).

Michael with Oyedaea neei Pruski. photo: Donald McClelland



Michael with Acalypha neeana Cardiel & Muñoz. photo: Rainer Muser

Archives of The New York Botanical Garden. Michael's field notebooks and typed notes with annotations and distributions take up as much space as all other NYBG collectors' field books combined.

Steve Sinon, archivist, proudly displaying one of Michael's field notebooks

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